



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association Newsletter

August 2020

Sale of Property Planned for September, to Coincide with Club Becoming 501(c)(3) NonProfit Organization

The sale of the property appears to be in the home stretch and on track to close next month. We have passed the “due diligence” phase. Closing was originally scheduled for this month, but we are still waiting for the Club to gain 501(c)(3) status. A short-term extension has been filed, and the buyer is agreeable to closing the sale at the time the Club becomes a 501(c)(3).

Many thanks to Board members who continue to shepherd this process with old-fashioned hard work, including David Marks and John Pearson.

Relatedly, the dispersal sale of items on the property was a success. A big thanks to Board member Helen Newton for organizing the sale, meeting buyers on the property and managing a myriad of tasks. The Club kept public announcement equipment, a pop-up shelter and a few other items for future use. A few items remain for sale (some are free), so if you are hankering for a particular item, contact Helen directly. The dispersal sale is a fund-raiser, so all proceeds go directly to the Club.

Finally, thanks to those of you who purchased items!

Note: Wondering what is a 501(c)(3)? It is commonly a nonprofit organization that the IRS recognizes as tax-exempt (excused from paying federal income tax), because it is organized or operated primarily for charitable, educational or similar purposes. There are other advantages that should benefit our Club going forward.



Got a Program Idea?

We'd like to know what interests you these days. Let's keep our monthly meetings going via webinars. Our first webinar was a great success and the technology worked without a hitch, but we need more members joining in to make the extra effort worthwhile. If you have questions about using this technology, we can help with that, too.

Let us know what topics interest you, and we'll find speakers! Call or email Joyce Davis, Board member and programs/speakers committee chair, carlotta_burra101@icloud.com or 505 490-5390.

Board Nominations are *Next Month*

The current board members have set the stage for a solid future. Now, it will be up to next year's Board to decide what plans, programs and opportunities best serve all our members going forward.

Please consider serving on next year's Board. As per bylaws, nominations take place in September (next month!) and elections occur in October. By then, the sale of the grounds should be complete and our obligation with the County settled. As a 501(c)(3) organization, we can look forward to an exciting future.

Several current Board members are planning to rotate off, so we need other members to step up. If you have been a member for six months, you are eligible to serve. Board member names and phone numbers appear elsewhere in this newsletter, so give one of them a call to ask questions or discuss serving. Go for it!

Member News – Karen D.

In another of free webinar series, the American Trails (<https://www.americantrails.org/>) assembled a panel of speakers to describe "Successful Models in Developing and Maintaining Private Equestrian Trail Systems." The Equine Land Conservation Resource (<http://www.elcr.org>) was one of the partners in offering the webinar.

It's executive director, Holley Groshek, quickly introduced the mission of that organization which offers information networking and resources for those interested in

retaining equestrian access in increasingly developing areas. That's a topic we all care about!



Another speaker, Michelle Grald, described the history, scope and operation of the Green Mountain Horse Association (GMHA) in South Woodstock, VT which was established in 1926. GMHA hosted the country's very first competitive distance ride in 1936 and continues annually with a 100-mile ride.

This club owns a 65-acre property (with two developed trailheads) that hosts events every summer weekend. Just as importantly, the club has negotiated a 400-mile trail inventory on private land of which 70 miles is designated for "anytime use" by association members. The balance of the inventory is open only for scheduled events.

Equestrians and Landowners Work Together

GMHA has arranged for equestrian access through "use licenses" and easement agreements with over 100 local landowners. Approximately 90% of the landowners have granted access by signed "licenses" that automatically renew annually but may be revoked in writing at any time. The remainder have granted permanent easements for limited use. The trails in GMHA's inventory are a mixture of single-track, old town roads, new constructions and historic routes utilized variously by many groups and individuals: hikers, bikers, motorcyclists, ATV users and winter snowmobilers, as well as equestrians.

GMHA governs only equestrian use. In the fall of each year, all the user groups meet to plan the following event year and release a calendar to prevent undue conflicts. Because of liability and privacy issues, GMHA requires membership (\$90/yr), adherence to trail rules and signed waivers for open riding. Non-members may ride only during scheduled events.

The primary challenge for GMHA Association is keeping up with landowner contacts which they do through appreciation events, newsletters and "personal ambassadors." The later are GMHA members who stay in personal contact with neighbor landowners. In respect for landowner privacy, full system maps are never available; specific event maps and routes are marked for individual events.

There is a cultural history in Vermont which supports this notion of shared access - that it's "not cool" to post no-trespassing signs or fence private land. But newcomers are often not privy to this idea, and the association is one avenue by which traditional equestrian access can be maintained.

Landon Russell was another presenter, representing the Walthour Moss Foundation. Based in Southern Pines, NC, this foundation has grown out of a family's fox-hunting legacy (dating back to the 1920s) to own nearly 4200 acres dedicated to public equestrian use. It is organized as a land trust, which entitles the foundation to particular consideration for tax and liability issues. Its two-deeded, not-quite-contiguous parcels are surrounded by other equestrian private properties, so since 2006, foundation members have reached out to neighbors via "easement parties" to recruit permanent legally-recorded easements for equestrian use at no cost to the landowners.

Those costs (surveys and filing fees) are covered by the foundation. Or, the foundation may receive deeds to those strips of land (which transfers ownership and any possible liability). Property owners are recognized through plaques, appreciation events and special thank you cards. It currently has about 90 participating landowners for an accrued 15 miles of easement trails. Along with on-property trails, the foundation offers about 300 miles of riding trails. Other foot-based users are welcome, but no bikers or motorized users are permitted.

Many Groups Advocate for Trail Use

Life-long area horsewoman Libbie Johnson of Tryon, NC, listed about six trail system/organizations but more fully described the 25-year-old Foothills Equestrian Trails Association (FETA, pronounced FEE-ta). Tryon is on the NC/SC state line and has a long, long history of area equestrian use stemming from early fox hunting clubs, but very little public land. FETA is the only local trail association which is open to non-property-owners, however membership eligibility is restricted to residents of a defined geographic area.

Over 200 participating landowners (some of whom are registered as riders) contribute to the inventory of over 150 miles of trail. And while landowners may allow other users and activities on their parcels, all landowners are asked not to permit mountain biking or any motorized use of FETA trails. Trail conditions are assessed daily and a telephone hotline is maintained to alert members of trail closures which are essential to preserve trails and eliminate undue damage.

Equestrian Have Responsibilities

Members of various trail groups adhere to various rules. In the case of FETA, riding members must identify themselves via saddle tags and truck decals and pay \$160 annual dues. Half the organization's annual budget goes toward insurance which stands primary to any liability insurance of landowners. For privacy reasons, no maps are published and marked trail routes are learned from other members or during member events.

All these webinar presenters spent considerable time describing trail maintenance arrangements which are efforts that assumed by some combination of landowners, associations and volunteers.

There was a Q&A session following the presentations which helped clarify some earlier ambiguities. One statement stood out, however: Should surveys be used to decide the use of public tax dollars for equestrian trails? Michelle Grald answered, making the point that equestrians will never be as numerous as other users and that money should never be allocated solely on user numbers.

She added, nor should trail impact be assessed without taking into consideration the number of each type of user. Her point was that including equestrians (who are skewed toward older women) on trails should be considered an accessibility issue.

Because of financial sponsors, this was a free 90-minute webinar and a recording may be downloaded from the American Trails website at <https://www.americantrails.org/training/successful-models-in-developing-and-maintaining-private-equestrian-trail-systems>.

Karen Denison
(from a cabin in Colorado)

It's That Time of Year – Part 2

In last month's newsletter, you saw a reference to a wildfire publication posted on the Santa Fe County Fire Department website. It is called "**Santa Fe Ready, Set, Go Guide – Personal Wildfire Action Plan.**" It's a very user-friendly set of checklists, tips and plans in the event of fire.

Another great source of information is New Mexican Cheryl Nigg. Cheryl is past president of Pecos Chapter of Back Country Horsemen and had to evacuate her ranch and animals in 2016. Cheryl has presented to other groups numerous helpful tips for evacuation in the case of wildfire.

Board member Joyce Davis had scheduled Cheryl for a presentation with us earlier this year, but that had to be postponed due to the pandemic. In the meantime, Cheryl agreed to share a few of her tips here:

(1) **Stock a to-go pet emergency kit** ahead of time and evaluate kit contents every year. Among other necessary items, be sure to include a current photo of your animal and proof of ownership such as registration papers.

(2) **Update your pet's identification**, whether microchip, halter tags or collars. *(Co-editors note: After reading this tip, I realized the small pet ID tags I have on all my halters and bridles have a home landline phone number on them, but no cell phone numbers. My new tags now have complete info.)*

(3) **If you do not have a trailer, make arrangements, in advance**, with someone who does and is available to assist in emergencies. Plan ahead of time where you would load your equines – give yourself and others plenty of time to handle skittish or frightened animals.

We look forward to hearing more from Cheryl in the future. In the meantime, thank you, Cheryl, for sharing some of your tips here.

Horses and Coronavirus

According to the Association of American Equine Practitioners (AAEP), there is no evidence that COVID-19 causes disease in horses. However, to be fully informed, know this:

There is another distinct virus, the equine coronavirus (ECoV), that can cause symptoms such as fever and depression in horses. ECoV is spread by fecal contamination from horses to horses or from contact with items contaminated with feces. Good to know the difference!

Do You Know...

Horses have seven different red blood cell groups or systems, named A, C, D, K, P, Q and U. Plus, each system has different blood factor frequencies, depending on breed. A majority of horses have blood type AaCa positive.

For more info, visit www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu. and look for information or an article entitled “equine blood typing.”

Classifieds

Do you have something equine-related to sell or services to provide? Short classified ads may be placed by any member in good standing. Please send an email with exact wording for your ad to: Sandra, smithcom@goldengate.net, or Karen, redmule@kdt.net.

STUART H. GARBER, DC, PhD, AVCA

Animal chiropractor with 39 years of experience. Certified in animal chiropractic by the American Veterinary Chiropractic Association. Equines and canines, but also happy to treat any critter with a spine. By appointment: 505 913-7493.

TERRY BERG

Trainer offers lessons, training, show coaching. Specialty: ranch riding, reining and ranch trail. Contact: sfclores@sprynet.com, 505 473-4147.

LYNN CLIFFORD

The Ride of Your Life Horsemanship instruction and The Inner Equestrian Life coaching/counseling, Santa Fe. By arrangement: www.lynnclifford.com, 505 231-5353.

LUCILLE BUMP

Centered Riding Clinic, Nov. 7-8, private lessons, Nov. 6, Nizhoni Ranch, Cerrillos. She is one of the first generation of Centered Riding founder Sally Swift's mentees. More info: www.lynnclifford.com.

THE TRINITY RANCH

Santa Fe's premier horse facility. Boarding, training, lessons, indoor arena, 150x300 jump course, 20x60 dressage court. Absolutely beautiful facility, exceptional staff, positive atmosphere. More info: www.santafehorse.com.

NORTHSIDE BOARDING

Ride out on miles of trails, five minutes from NM599/La Tierra Rd. Reasonable rates, relaxed atmosphere. Prices from \$300-\$375 for pens 12x60 and larger. Arena, round pen, three tack rooms, wash rack, trailer parking. Horses fed grass mix or alfalfa twice daily. Boarders provide extras, we feed. Owner lives on premises. Contact: Carolyn, Centaurus Ranch, 505 474-0821.

Board and Committees

2020 Officers of the Board

President	David Marks	david.marks.sf@gmail.com	505 466-0306
VP	Howard Gershom	howard@reach-newheights.com	505 690-8433
Treasurer	Helen Newton	sfcolores@sprynet.com	505 470-1396
Secretary	Joyce Davis	carlotta_burra101@icloud.com	505 490-5390
At-large	John Pearson	johnz.pearson@comcast.net	650 863-2491

Adjunct/committees

Grounds Manager	Open		
Ridge Riders	Open		
Programs/speakers	Joyce Davis	carlotta_burra101@icloud.com	505 490-5390
Facebook Manager	Open		
Website Manager	Betsy Walker	betwalk@cybermesa.com	505 466-1643
Newsletter/ membership	Karen Denison	redmule@kdt.net	505 469-2698
	Sandra Smith	smithcom@goldengate.net	505 983-0144

Website <http://www.NNMHA.net>

You are welcome to contact any board member with questions or comments about association plans or activities. Board meetings are held each month, usually at the NNMHA office. Members are also invited to attend board meetings. Please contact a Board member to confirm meeting times and locations.



***Everyone needs help
from someone, sometimes.***
adapted from Bertolt Brecht