



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association Newsletter

November 2020

Board Seeking Input from Members Regarding Mission Statement; Work on Revised Bylaws Continues

As we move forward with our new nonprofit charity status, Board members have been working to ensure our Bylaws conform to being a 501(c)(3). Once the bylaws are in final draft stage, the Board plans to post on the Club website the new bylaws for member input. An email will advise members the bylaws are available for review.

In the meantime, the Board recently sent all members an email seeking your feedback on a revised mission statement that takes into consideration our new status. Please respond to the email by contacting any Board member directly with your ideas, questions and comments regarding the proposed statement. Mission statements are a brief description of who we are, what we support and what we want to become in the future. So, your input is much needed and appreciated, and helps set the stage for specific plans and programs for the coming years.

As you read in the October newsletter, Board member elections will be held in January, probably by mail or online. We anticipate in-person meetings will not be possible for either nominations or voting. The Board anticipates seeking nominations for Board positions in time for members to review nominee information.

Throughout this process, the Board will be seeking your input. However, please feel free to contact any Board member anytime, as we all look forward to a bright future for the Club. More to come on that front!



*May you and yours enjoy a safe,
happy Thanksgiving.*

Member News – Leanne, Blossom, Luna



“This is a recent walk-ride excursion - me on my mustang mare Blossom, with our dear donkey Luna along,” Leanne DeVane says. “Blossom particularly enjoyed having Luna with us! Luna really enjoyed eating (ha ha ha!) and just being out with the family.

Adoption Successes

“Blossom is originally from The Horse Shelter and is about 11 years old. When I adopted her in 2014, we were both new to riding. I adopted Luna from The Longears Safehouse the same year as Blossom, and Luna is also around 11 years old.

“We've come a long way, and this summer I finally learned to lope! Our recent practice sessions focus on getting comfortable with each other while loping.

Cool Animals

“It's a joy to explore new levels of horsemanship and mutual trust. Both Luna and Blossom are such cool animals.”

Leanne adds, “We have fun. Plus, Blossom behaves better, because Luna is there!”

Leanne DeVane

Co-editors note: We're all hankerin' to know what other members are doing these days. Just send a few words and a photo or two to Karen or Sandra. It's that easy! Email addresses are elsewhere in this newsletter.

E-Bikes Are Coming to Trails Near You

In late August 2019, the Secretary of the Interior signed administrative order #3376 stating in essence that e-bikes shall be treated as traditional bicycles on all public lands under its administration. It further directed all managers of Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Park Service (NPS) and the National Refuge System to implement the order within thirty days. See the full order here: https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/so_3376_-_increasing_recreational_opportunities_through_the_use_of_electric_bikes_-_508_0.pdf

For those unfamiliar with them, e-bikes are bicycles that have an incorporated electric motor allowing the rider to accelerate more quickly or maintain higher speeds on grades than they might be able by pedaling alone. They are categorized into three classes: Class 1 e-bikes are capable of 20mph on flat ground “pedal-assist” (the rider must be pedaling); Class 2 e-bike speed is also 20mph but bikes have a throttle and no pedaling is required to engage the motor; and, Class 3 bikes are capable of 28mph as pedal-assist.

All e-bikes are capable of higher speeds, but the motors disengage above the stated speeds. **All of these classes are considered e-bikes and will be allowed under the Interior Department order on *non-motorized trails* where traditional bicycles are allowed.**

Since the U.S. National Forest System (USFS) operates under the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it has so far not implemented this change, but the process is in play. The Secretary of Agriculture in June 2019 directed Chief of the National Forests to



“increase access to national forests and grasslands,” specifically mentioning the advent of newer technologies. A 30-day public comment period on the proposed management change was open in September per agency requirements.

Though it was scarcely publicized by the agency itself, trail conservation groups like Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) rallied members to comment and responded with carefully-documented arguments against treating e-bikes the same as traditional mountain bikes for management purposes. However, National Grasslands (administered under USFS) are already open to e-bikes.

The USFS indicated it may regulate according to e-bike categories. However, even those well acquainted with e-bikes cannot neither distinguish one class from another without close examination nor differentiate easily an e-bike from a traditional mountain bike. More from USFS: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/usda-forest-service-issues-proposed-guidance-manage-e-bike-use-national-forests-and>

Land managers of all sorts are examining the implications. In Spring 2020, the Arizona Trail Association conducted a carefully structured email survey of trail users to gauge response to potential e-bike use on that particular trail. Note: The Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) is an 800-mile, natural-surface, non-motorized trail stretching north to south across Arizona dedicated to giving users a “unique encounter with the land.” Because survey organizers were focused on the Arizona Trail, they only analyzed responses from actual AZT users, but the data may have broader implications.

Across all user groups, e-bikes were viewed with disapproval for use on the AZT, even by current traditional Mountain Bike (MTB) users. However, the strength of disapproval varied by user group: horseback riders disapproved most strongly, hikers/runners a little less, and MTB riders were more lukewarm.

Horseback riders were also most likely to respond that they would no longer use the AZT if e-bikes were present. The survey results were discussed as part of a recent webinar presented by American Trails. You may listen yourself and learn more here: <https://www.americantrails.org/training/perceptions-of-conflict-of-e-bikes-on-the-arizona-trail>

Locally, the Valles Caldera National Preserve is welcoming e-bikes (using pedals) to all multi-use trails. Santa Fe County trails (like the Rail Trail) and Santa Fe National Forest currently ban e-bikes as being motorized, although that may change as noted above. So far, we have received no comment from the City of Santa Fe regarding Dale Ball, La Tierra Trails and urban trails. Likewise, there has been no official response regarding trails at Galisteo Basin Preserve.

Being part of an organization like BCHA or Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association (NNMHA) that advocates for equestrian concerns is a good way to network local information and resources. As horseback riders, it's imperative that we encourage safety on trails and know the regulations on trails we ride.

Thank you for being a member of NNMHA!

Karen Denison

What We Know about Pets and Covid

At this time, there is no evidence that domestic animals, including horses, dogs, cats and small mammals (gerbils, hamsters, etc.) can spread COVID-19 to humans. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC, www.cdc.gov), however, the Center is aware of a small number of animals worldwide, including cats, dogs, minks and lions, to be infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

Infections among animals occur after close contact with people with known COVID-19. To be safe, do not let pets interact with anyone in your household who is or may be infected. Further, the CDC also recommends that pet owners:

- Limit your pet's interaction with people outside your household.
- Keep cats indoors and do not let them roam freely outside.
- Walk dogs on a leash at least six feet away from others.
- Avoid public places where large numbers of people gather.
- Never wipe or bathe pets with chemical disinfectants, alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, hand sanitizers or similar products.

When visiting veterinary clinics, pet stores or feed stores, follow the same rules you would follow anywhere out of home. Animal clinics, in particular, may have their own protocol, so be sure to inquire. Of course, it's a good idea to ensure places such as these are following proper health precautions.

Like so many aspects of the virus, further studies are needed to understand if and how different animals could be affected. This is an evolving issue.

Good advice for us with pets. Let's keep us all well and safe.

Do You Know...

Horses can tolerate cold to -40 degrees Fahrenheit, if they are in good body condition. Their winter coats, once established, traps air next to the skin, which helps them against cold weather, according to www.aaep.org.

Of course, access to water, good hay or supplements and some shelter (out of wet, windy weather) are also very important. A tucked tail, shivering and direct touch are all good ways to tell if a horse is too cold.



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.

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	sfclores@sprynet.com	505 470-1396
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Committees

Ridge Riders	Open		
Programs/speakers	Joyce Davis	carlotta_burra101@icloud.com	505 490-5390
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Website Manager	Betsy Walker	betwalk@cybermesa.com	505 466-1643
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	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 Club plans or activities. Board meetings are held each month. Due to the pandemic, meetings are online. Members are invited to participate in board meetings. Please contact a Board member for more information.



***People see me as cute,
but I'm so much more than that.***
Ashley Tisdale