



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association Newsletter

October 2020

A Letter to Members from the Board

Dear NNMHA Member,

As you know, the sale of our property on Rodeo Road went through with your overwhelming support in late September. The organization has been converted into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and over \$500,000 is now safely invested and already earning money for us to use to further our mission in the coming years.

There is a lot to understand about our new status and a lot of paperwork to finalize. The board is working with our counsel, Kurt Sommer of the Sommer Udall Law Firm, to dot the I's and cross the T's as we transition to our new status.

So, what changes, now that we are a 501(c)(3)?

Bylaws are Being Rewritten...

Most urgently, we have to ensure that our Bylaws conform to the law the 501(c)(3) nonprofit charities definition. During the transition to 501(c)(3) status, the Board adopted a set of boilerplate bylaws commonly used by this type of organization. We will now modify them with key elements from our "old" bylaws from 2016.

Helen Newton, Karen Denison and Howard Gershon are doing the heavy lifting to blend the two sets of bylaws. Their work will guarantee that we retain our unique character as a membership organization in which you, the members, continue to elect board members annually and have your say on how the NNMHA develops.

Elections are Delayed...

However, the property sale and legal filings have thrown us off our regular schedule and the Board has decided to delay the annual elections this year. They will now take place by late January 2021. Exact dates for nominations and voting will be published as soon as possible. Please consider throwing your hat in the ring and run for office! Or throw someone else's hat in the ring.

Acting for the Public Good...

The next big difference is that 501(c)(3)s have a duty to act for the public good. We shall still be organizing programs for our members, but we will use some of our new financial resources to support and sponsor other organizations' events, always with an eye on advancing knowledge of horses among the public.

Deciding which organizations to support each year will fall to the Board, but we shall be taking regular soundings from you. The vehicle for getting your views will most likely be through a sub-committee of the Board, but the exact structure has yet to be decided.

As a 501(c)(3), we also can raise money from outside sponsors to support horse-centered communities in New Mexico. Deciding out how we shall do this will require more thought and strict procedures. Again, the Board will keep you posted as we develop this new aspect of our association.

Envisioning the Future...

Our new status enables us to imagine a new future. We will be free of the upkeep of those very labor- and money-intensive showgrounds. Interest and dividends from our investment accounts will take us from net expenditure of around \$20,000+ per year to net income of \$20,000+ per year, plus any moneys we raise from sponsors.

How should we broaden our horizons? How should we engage other associations? How should we help the younger generation of horse enthusiasts and professionals? Rest assured that the Board is already mulling these issues and will put in place procedures so that you can express your views.

It's fun to imagine that in a few years, we may well be at the vibrant center of the horse community in our state, with a cadre of members from the next generation of owners, riders and trainers. We may be influencing: how trails are developed and used; how to support our own horse shows, events and causes or those of others; and, how we may become a recognized communications center for the horse community on issues of the day.

One thing is certain - there will be many opportunities for you, the NNMHA members, to get involved as we chart our new future.

Happy riding!

John Pearson, Board member

Tips for Riding from Experts Help Keep Us Safe – Notes from Meeting

Treasurer Helen Newton, who capably administered the Zoom meeting, introduced our first speaker Deirdre Monroe. Deirdre is involved with many trail initiatives and projects and has logged many miles in the saddle as an endurance rider, trail mapper and recreational rider.

She is locally known for her recreational map of the Caja del Rio area, spearheaded re-mapping the San Pedro Parks Wilderness and has just been appointed to the Governor's Recreation Trail Advisory Board. In her opening remarks, Deirdre spoke a little about the southern Caja del Rio, its position adjacent to HIPICO-Santa Fe, and a proposal to extend the Camino Real Historic Trail from the original La Bajada route to Headquarters Well.

Trail Riding Safety Considerations

Deirdre emphasized throughout her presentation that safety issues are best addressed through attitude and behavior, rather than the stuff you may carry along. Basic trail etiquette says 'you are responsible to your partners' to help keep them safe. Deirdre gave some examples of good and bad behavior she has observed, like riders that simply cantered off without notice or the good practice of making sure everyone's truck starts at the end of a ride.

If you ride enough, something bad can happen, so friends are critical in taking responsibility for each other. Don't leave them behind, wherever you are, wilderness or close to home!

Deirdre spoke a little about the stuff she does carry, including some newish technology. She uses a GPS, but also puts an older GPS tracker in her saddlebag (a SPOT tracker), so that if her horse should depart without her, she has a better chance of locating him. She has been involved personally with a couple 'lost horse' searches.



She also listed items she carries in a pommel or cantele bag, as well as on herself. They included water, phone, compass, electrolytes (can be purchased in packets) a spare set of reins, GPS maps and snacks. "If you're riding a horse, you are exercising hard...so I always have stuff that I like to eat," she explained about snacks. "I don't worry about calories."

Deirdre cautioned, "People underestimate what they need. They focus on their horses and not on themselves." She also carries a rain jacket and two bandanas, "because tied together, the bandanas make a nice sling."

Both speakers reminded us we are responsible for everyone else in the group and vice versa. For example, don't leave before everyone is ready to go and discuss ahead of time, the route, length, duration and pace of the ride.

STOP as an Acronym - Plan Calmly and Act Wisely

Matt Coulombe, our second speaker, is vice president of New Mexico Mounted Search and Rescue, a volunteer mounted search and rescue organization. He added a few other items to carry, such as a fire starter or lighter, vet wrap, a pocket knife, Banamine (or something similar) and any personal medication you should have on hand.

He reiterated the importance of keeping such items in your pocket or vest, not on your horse. He also suggested keeping a halter on your horse and a lead rope with you. Keeping a halter on is a good tip wherever you ride, especially if you have trailered away from home.



Cell phone coverage is spotty in many places, even close to home. "Phones don't always work," Matt added. So, keep at least a map, if you're not familiar with the area. If helpful, bring your compass and GPS, as well.

He used an acronym, STOP, as a guide if you are lost when riding: **S**top whatever you are doing; **T**hink about what's going on; **O**bserve where you are (familiar landmark or trail); and, **P**lan what to do.

“Sometimes, it's best to stay where you are, but if you see lights, a vehicle or road, use your judgment in determining whether to walk there,” he said. “It's natural to panic at first, so get that adrenalin rush out, then start planning.”

Matt added that horses are better if they are near other horses. If you are with a single horse or rescuing one, that can be more challenging. Another good reason to stick with riding partners!

As Deirdre emphasized, Matt also reminded us of the importance of group communications. For example, he said, “If someone gets down to open a gate, don't take off until that person is back in the saddle and ready to go.”

He noted that most horse problems have to do with lameness or thrown shoes, so you may consider carrying a slip-on boot and shoe nails. If the latter, have your farrier show you how to nail a shoe sufficiently to get back to your trailer or starting point. Might say, that beats walking out a ways.

Thanks to both Deirdre and Matt for tons of helpful tips to keep us safe, wherever we ride.

Spring + Fall Vaccines = Year-round Protection

Generally, fall equine vaccination calls for rabies, and you may consider a second worming, depending on your situation. That plan, however, assumes Eastern/Western/Tetanus (EWT, often a single, three-way vaccine), West Nile Encephalitis, Rhinopneumonitis and Equine Influenza were given as spring shots. Vaccination schedules may vary, but these should be given at least once a year. Worming (or at least a fecal egg count) may be done once or twice a year, along with dental checks and sheath cleaning.

Rhinopneumonitis is a contagious disease caused by two forms of the same virus, and can cause respiratory issues, abortion in broodmares or neurological problems. Equine influenza is a common, acute viral infection involving the respiratory tract. This virus mutates easily and immunity is short-lived, according to the spring 2020 edition of *Equus* magazine.

Other, risk-based vaccines may be given, such as strangles or Potomac Horse fever, according to your equine's health, lifestyle/travel and location. If your vet handles worming or vaccinations for you, that visit or farm call is also a good time to talk about overall equine appearance and any specific issues or concerns.



Hard to believe we are getting ready for winter!

Store Hay Bales Safely to Protect Your Investment \$\$\$

Storing hay is a necessity for most of us, especially in the winter. So, whether you keep it indoors or out, here are a few (probably already known, but good) reminders.

If storing outdoors, cover bales with at least one (two are better) tarps or heavy durable, waterproof covers. According to the University of Minnesota Extension Service's September 2020 online newsletter, tarps and covers reduce storage losses by half. Secure covers to keep hay dry and wildlife from nesting.

Regardless of indoor or outdoor storage, do not stack bales directly on the ground. Instead, stack bales on pallets to allow air flow and help prevent hay from absorbing ground moisture. Indoors, you can stack bales on plywood sheets end-to-end with a gravel or rock base underneath. Remove remaining old hay before placing new bales down. Of course, it's a good idea to inspect each bale when you open it.

Further, it is explained that hay can keep indefinitely if it was properly baled and stored. In areas with high humidity, however, moisture can reduce storage life. Generally, it is recommended that hay be used within two years of harvest.

Member News – Schooling Weekends

Our monthly meeting opened with announcement from Brian Gonzales of HIPICO-Santa Fe. He gave a rundown on what is happening there and invites anyone who may be interested in one of their remaining schooling weekends or organizing another group trail ride to contact him.

The HIPICO phone number is 505 474-0999. You can also check out clinics and training at www.hipicosantafe.com.

Do You Know...

Eastern/Western Equine Encephalomyelitis is a brain and spinal cord inflammation in equines caused by viruses that are usually transmitted by mosquitoes.

As long as we are talking about these bothersome pests, West Nile Encephalitis is also transmitted by mosquitoes. It can infect other mammals. Usually, infection causes little or no illness, but sometimes it triggers swelling of the brain that produces muscle twitching, limb weakness, incoordination, behavioral changes and paralysis. In severe cases, it can lead to coma and death.

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@kdtt.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: sfcolores@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

Committees

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 Club plans or activities. Board meetings are held each month. Due to the pandemic, meetings are online. Members are welcome to attend board meetings. Please contact a Board member for meeting details.



***Your surroundings may change,
but your essence and your personality
pretty much stay the same.***

Jenna Dewan