



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association Newsletter

October 2021

How APNM Helps Equines and Their Families with Drought, Lack of Forage and the Impacts of Covid -19

At our program meeting on **Wednesday, Oct. 27**, learn more about how the Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) helps others in drought, lack of forage, and the serious economic and personal impacts of Covid-19, and more. These are just some of the challenges that horse owners face today.

Hear from Victoria Murphy, Equine Protection Fund Program Manager with APNM, on how safety net services are helping keep horses, mules and donkeys healthy and with their families through tough times. She also has stories of how New Mexicans everywhere have helped their neighbors and rallied together!

We will meet at the Pecos Trail Café, 2239 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe. The program starts at 7 pm. As always, feel free to join others at 6 pm for dinner. Please RSVP at contact@nnmha.org so we may advise the restaurant. In advance, thanks for adhering fully to the current Covid-19 guidelines and mandates in place.

If you think this program (or future ones) may interest friends and other horse people, feel free to invite them. There is no charge for our program meetings. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity, we are glad to offer these and other events that foster the well-being of equines and their people.

About our Speaker

Victoria brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to her work, having held positions in both animal sheltering and humane law enforcement services in NM. Previously, she was responsible for developing new ways to maximize New Mexico animal shelters' ability to humanely care for companion animals, increase adoptions and spay/neuter, reduce euthanasia and increase funding and training access.



She has also served on the board of Las Cruces Horseman's Association and acted as the horseshow chairman. She actively advocates through the state on behalf of people seeking emergency medical or financial assistance for equines.

About APNM

Since 1979, the Animal Protection New Mexico (APNM) has been advocating for the rights of animals by effecting systemic change, resulting in the humane treatment of all animals. What began as a small, dedicated group of people, APNM has, among other successes, helped pass dozens of laws to protect animals, while dramatically increasing the visibility of issues that New Mexico's animal population regularly faces.



As a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, APNM depends upon donations, volunteers and grants to continue its mission. For more information, go to www.apnm.org/horsehelp.

Candidates for 2021 Board

To all members: We are delighted to put forward this slate of candidates – they are enthusiastic about NNMHA and the future of our organization. Each candidate brings valuable experiences that will help all us further our mission and vision.

Members will be voting to fill three vacancies for 2022. Last year, we found that voting by email was efficient and easy, so we're handling voting by email again. In mid-October, you will receive the candidate information below and a ballot for your use to vote. All voting will be completed by October 27, and results will appear in the November newsletter.

In related news, Trish Hug was appointed by the Board to complete the term of Piar Marks, who recently resigned. Other Board members not up for election are Howard Gershon, Gary Clendenen and John Pearson (who is serving the position vacated earlier by Kristina Flanagan).

Those choosing not to seek reelection are David Marks and Joyce Davis. Thanks to all no longer on the Board or not seeking reelection for your tireless and inspired service.

If you have a general question about the election, contact Karen Denison, 505 469-2698, redmule@kdt.net.

2022 NNMHA Board Member Candidates

Evalyn Bemis



I learned to ride when I was seven, and by the time I was 10 - I had pestered my parents into buying me a \$60 pony to go with the \$100 used English saddle I bought with my savings from babysitting. Pony Club in my New England hometown was a great experience and taught me so much about horsemanship. I haven't been without a horse since then except during my college years.

I moved to Santa Fe in 1978 after graduation and shortly thereafter was given a horse. Carlos was ungelded, blind in one eye and pretty green in the tack. But, he had a heart of gold and re-ignited my passion for having a horse in my life. At one crazy point, I had as many as 10 horses under my care, but on average I usually have two or three that I keep at home.

I have Evented to the Advanced level, shown Western Pleasure, Show Jumped and dabbled in Dressage. More than anything, I love to trail-ride in the beauty that is New Mexico.

I think there is a wonderful new era ahead for NNMHA to educate and offer experiences to equestrians young and old who share a passion for horses.

Helen Newton



After spending 20 years as a staff member at Los Alamos National Laboratory, I retired and moved to Santa Fe. For the past 30 years, my now wife, Terry Berg, and I have owned and operated Santa Fe Reiners at our facility southwest of Santa Fe in La Cienega. Santa Fe Reiners has successfully bred, trained and shown Appaloosas and Quarter Horses at the National and International level. Our current specialty is training and showing Ranch Riding and Reining Horses and their riders.

Over the years we have had much success in winning Championships in Driving, English Pleasure and Equitation, Western Pleasure and Horsemanship, Trail, Western Riding and Showmanship. Our passion is showing horses and we are blessed that our program has helped so many riders to succeed with their horses.

I was elected NNMHA Board Treasurer in 2015. In that position I have been responsible for shepherding the organization's finances. It is especially exciting to me that NNMHA has transitioned to a charitable 501(c)(3) organization. This new designation allows us to move forward with new ideas.

Recently, I managed the dispersal of excess equipment prior to the sale of the property on Rodeo Rd. While my background is obviously the showing of horses, I look forward to participating in re-inventing NNMHA's mission to support the many diverse interests of horse-people in Northern New Mexico.

Paula Zima



I love horses, all creatures, really, but I happen to have two horses. My interest is in training, as well as enjoying being in their presence. I'm not a fabulous horse trainer, but I do have a knack for it. I enjoy teaching them silly tricks that feed into what I'd like them to do when riding.

I encountered an event called Working Equitation (W.E.) when I visited Portugal several years ago. As a dressage rider, I knew how stressed and bored horses can get, and I was always trying to make it more interesting for them.

I can tell you right now that if I become a member of the Board, I will be lobbying for some W.E. clinics near Santa Fe, so more people can see what fun it is. I now fit into the Eclectic Horseman category, and W.E. is right up my alley.

My partner, Tom, and I make our living as artists, painting and sculpting. His side job is painting signs, and mine is Commercial Illustration. I'd be happy to serve on the NNMHA Board to support this group of kind-hearted horse people.

Ginger Gaffney Relives Experiences in Her Book, "Half Broke: A Memoir"

Hearing Ginger Gaffney read from her book was a heart-felt evening for the more than 25 people gathered around her at our September program meeting. She read passages about her experiences at an alternative prison, the Delancy Street Ranch in Velarde, working with horses. She spoke of Terry, a young mare, and how the horse was not ready for what a "famous" trainer, also there, demanded.



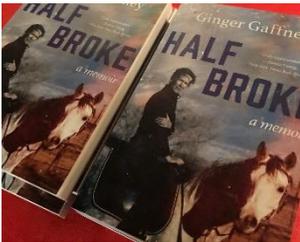
“Terry follows me around the pen like a happy puppy. She’s soft. Her body bends around me like playdough. She’s a short-backed, agile creature, the color of mud mixed with clay, and she stands only up to my shoulders.

“It took six days to get the buck out of her, every time I put the saddle on she would blow her girth out, round her back and race around the round pen humped into a ball...

“She’s not ready,” I screamed at the



famous trainer and the six other men in cowboy hats who gathered around the perimeter of the round pen. Ultimately, both Ginger and Terry ended up injured. Ginger described the pair after the fall. “We inched ourselves along the way like an old married couple.” Ginger wrapped her own leg and Terry’s, vet wrap for Terry and ibuprofen for Ginger. “Ice for both,” Ginger added.



“I learned this little mare has a lot to teach me. I wish I could only trust myself like she trusts herself... Writing this book totally changed me and made me a better trainer.” Ginger told us that she wrote of this experience in one night without stopping. Thank you for sharing, Ginger. Perhaps we all are a little better horse lovers for your insights.

She is working on a second book. “Half Broke: A Memoir” is available at Collected Works and on amazon.com.

Other Board Actions at Sept. Meeting

In addition to detailing election plans, Board members circled the wagons on insurance coverage for the coming year, especially for clinics, trail rides, shows and other events. The new policy will be in place later this month with no lapse in coverage. They also finalized necessary waivers for participation in all NNMHA activities.

Discussions are underway for a Rider Confidence Clinic yet this year, and our holiday party is scheduled for December 11. Details to come!

Member News – Horse Shelter’s New Employees; *Octoberfest* at the Ranch

Welcome to new staff members at the Horse Shelter! Rhonda Rein is the new Ranch Manager. She brings over 30 years of experience in ranch management, training, breeding and competition. Traci Kipnes is the Shelter’s new Volunteer Coordinator; she started as a volunteer in 2018 and will also now handle groundwork training.

As the new Marketing Coordinator, Antonio Guerrero brings vital marketing and design expertise, particularly as they relate to various media platforms. The Horse Shelter is currently looking for a part or full-time horse trainer.

Octoberfest will be held at the Horse Shelter on Saturday, October 16, 11 am – 3 pm. You can meet employees and the horses, take a tour of the ranch and see demonstrations with horses. There will be trivia prizes, a raffle and brats and potato salad to celebrate the event, too! For details about Octoberfest and more information about ranch happenings: TheHorseShelter.org/Octoberfest.

Do You Know...

While horses rely most on body language to communicate, the noises they make are also meaningful. There are four types of equine vocal communications: whinny, nicker, snort and squeal. Each one has a precise meaning, and the sounds mean the same thing each time, for every horse.

Whinny - *a loud, high-pitched neigh*. It means, “Where are my friends?” Or, “Who is willing to be my friend?” The horse is lonely and looking for a herd it knows or any horse that is willing to be a herd with it. It is feeling insecure, in the moment, put your horse to work, so it has something to focus on.

Nicker - *a soft, low, breathy whinny, maybe muffled*. It implies “come to me” and can be heard if a foal wanders off from a mare. Or, “look at me” when a stallion is showing off to a mare. It’s also the sound you hear each day at feeding time which translates to “come bring me food.”

If your horse nickers at you to ask for individual treats, it may think it’s dominant, and that can impact all aspects of your relationship. What to do?



Don't let the nicker be a signal that you should give your horse extra food or a treat. If the nicker only happens when you're feeding all the horses at a regular feeding time, that's OK.

Snort - *an explosive sound made by the sudden forcing of breath through the nose.* The snort is an

alarm, and if a horse does it and holds its head high, it has detected a threat. The horse can add a rattling sound to the snort when highly alarmed. An abrupt type of alarm snort is different from the relaxed snorting that is associated with horses in a contented state.

The snort may also be used during play; when a horse wants to practice its flight response, it will often snort first, then run. You may hear a horse snort on a trail ride if it detects a strange scent. When riding, stop and make an assessment.

It could be one of two things: Look where the snorting horse is looking. There may be something in the distance that is a legitimate threat, or it could be that the horse is fearful of something benign. If you're doing new groundwork or establishing boundaries, the horse needs to have some deference for you, so be watchful. Remember that a snorting horse is feeling threatened and may be willing to act out.

Squeal - *a long, high-pitched cry or noise.* Most often heard from mares, but any horse may squeal. When horses squeal, it is usually a warning of horse-on-horse violence. A mare will squeal to repel the advances of a stallion, but it may also indicate two horses meeting for the first time. They will sniff one another, then one will squeal as a threat of aggression.

Often one horse will back down after a squeal, but if they both remain engaged, a strike or kick can come next. If a person is in the middle of horses as they become aggressive, it can be dangerous. Get yourself and others away from horses that are squealing. In a field, you don't have to break it up, but it's a good idea to supervise. Evaluate the situation, use your best judgment, and make sure that all horses and people are safe.

Mules and Donkeys - Mules make sounds that are different from horses and donkeys, although there are some similarities. A mule makes a sound that is similar to a donkey's but also has the whinnying characteristics of a horse. It may start with a whinny and end in a "hee-haw" or "eeyore."

Donkey and mule sounds are often called a bray, and it is: breathier, higher pitched and brief. They may also be similar to a very short nicker or snort.



Brays may mean different things depending on the circumstance. Depending on the mule or donkey, their sounds are different from each other, based on their breeding.

Adapted largely from an article written by Julie Goodnight in Horse Illustrated magazine

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](mailto:smithcom@goldengate.net), or [Karen, karen,redmule@kdt.net](mailto: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: 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.

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.

OCTOBER CLINICS

Susan Smith, Equine Body Balance, and Deborah Whalen, Deborah Whalen Equine, are hosting an in-person clinic, Saturday, October 9, 8:30 am – 5 pm, “Meeting the Horse: Understanding the horse/human relationship,” drawing from human psychology, herd behavior and more. It will be held at Arrowhead Ranch, Santa Fe, and is limited to 10 participants. Covid-19 protocols will be followed, and the clinic will take place in an outdoor arena and a clubhouse.

Susan is also offering a new course, “Healing through Movement: Posture, Gait and Recovery.” For more information, contact Susan, info@susansmithsantafe.com, or Deborah, deborahwhalenlcswh@gmail.com.

Board and Committees

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Website <http://www.NNMHA.org>
NNMHA Email contact@nnmha.org

NNMHA encourages and educates our members and the broader northern New Mexico community with regard to equine wellness and equestrian activities

You are welcome to contact Board members with questions or comments about plans or activities. Board meetings are held each month, and members are invited to participate in Board meetings. Meetings may be online or in person. Please contact any Board member for more information.



***In three words, I can sum up everything
I've learned about life: it goes on.***
Robert Frost