



# Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association Newsletter

March 2022

## Learn about Pack Burro Racing at Program Meeting on March 30

Giddy up! Members from the New Mexico Pack Burro Racing team will talk about its origins, racing rules and their experiences training and racing in Colorado and Arizona. Pack burro racing is a modern sport with a sanctioning body.

These photos are from the 2019 Creede, Colorado, Donkey Dash, where about 50 teams completed.

There, teams included Stan Lundy and Marshmellow (in photo on page 2). Katie Lundy, Stan's wife, also competes.

Our speakers will be members of the team. So, come learn how to pack, what it takes to



race or just where to watch others race! The first official race will be held in Cerrillos on May 7.



This is sure to be a fun program to attend. It begins at 7 pm – join others for dinner at 6 pm. We are at our usual location, the Pecos Trail Café, 2239 Old Pecos Trail, Santa Fe. **Please RSVP to: [contact@nnmha.org](mailto:contact@nnmha.org)**, so we may advise the restaurant.

Mask mandates are no longer in place, but please feel free to wear a mask if you choose. If you are more comfortable coming for the program only, please know the restaurant is glad to fulfill take-out orders.

Come and learn more about pack burro racing!

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## “Intro to Ranch Riding Clinic” with Clinician/Trainer Terry Berg, April 9

Well-known area clinician/trainer and NNMHA member Terry Berg (in photo) is hosting this clinic, “Intro to Ranch Riding” on Saturday, April 9, 10 am – 3 pm. She is well-versed in Ranch Riding and has regularly taught and participated in this event for some years. Location will be finalized closer to the date. However, it will be held at either the Chavez facility or Terry’s arena, both in Santa Fe, depending on weather.

### What is Ranch Riding?

Ranch Riding in the horse show environment gauges a horse's ability to be a pleasure to ride, while being used as a conveyance from performing one ranch task to another.

The horse and rider are asked to perform a pattern that includes changes of gait, extension of gait, crossing legs and lead changes. This class of competition has exploded over the past 4-5 years, primarily because the exhibitors find it fun!



Ranch Riding takes one back to the fundamentals of horsemanship, putting the horse first, with a foundation of natural movement. While Horsemanship, Western Riding and Western Pleasure are all about collection and control, Ranch Riding is about moving with purpose and getting out of the horse's way.

Its circles might remind you of Reining, it has the lead changes of Western Riding and the turns and precise maneuvers of a Horsemanship class. Yet it is much more than just a pattern class. The intention behind the maneuvers is not to exhibit how well you can control the horse. Your job as a rider is to show how well the horse can take care of itself, take care of you, and get the job done.

As we work to develop a successful Ranch Riding horse, we emphasize correct execution, proper extension and clean transitions. The rider on a Ranch Rider becomes better able to think on horseback while building a solid, trusting relationship between the horse and rider.

### **How to Register for this Clinic**

The clinic is limited to 10 riders and their horses, on a first/come/first serve and paid in-full basis. The cost is \$75 per rider. Auditors are welcome at no charge. To sign up, mail your check to: Joyce Davis, PO Box 613, Cerrillos, NM 87010. Be sure to include rider's name, address, phone number and email address.

Payment must be received in full by March 26. No refunds will be made unless the clinic is cancelled. If needed, contact Joyce at [bjmrkitty@gmail.com](mailto:bjmrkitty@gmail.com), 505 490-5390.

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## **Rudolfo Lara, Sr., Two-day Clinic to be Held April 30 - May 1 in Eldorado**

An "Introduction to Working Equitation" clinic is being hosted by Rudolfo Lara, Sr., on Saturday-Sunday, April 30-May 1. This is an opportunity to work with a true **VAGUERO!** It will be held at the Nina Courtney Arena in Eldorado.

Cost is \$200 for members, \$250 for non-members (\$25 will go toward NNMHA membership). A \$100 deposit is due at sign up by April 16. For clinic details or to sign up, contact Joyce Davis, [bjmrkitty@gmail.com](mailto:bjmrkitty@gmail.com), or 505 490-5390.

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# Say Howdy to Our New “Trail Boss” – First Ride is April 2, so Save the Date

Ed Srsic is our new Ridge Riders committee head, more aptly referred to as “Trail Boss.” As such, Ed has lined the first spring ride in April, with more to come. All rides are planned for the first Saturday of the month – that makes it easy to remember!

Most group rides will be in the local area and host 12-15 riders. As with any rides, safety is paramount and proper riding etiquette will be enforced. **The first ride is April 2, Caja del Rio Loop from Headquarters Well.** It’s an easy, flat ride. Two-hour ride. Meet at the trailer parking area, in the saddle at 10 am. More rides to be announced.

To register for this ride, go to our website, [nnmha.org](http://nnmha.org), go to Events and then click on Ridge Riders. There, you will find a signup form, directions and other details. If you have specific questions about this ride, contact Ed at [esrsic@gmail.com](mailto:esrsic@gmail.com) or 415 303-3238.

## About Ed Srsic



Ed has been trail riding in NM since 1987, when he moved to El Paso, TX. Over the years, he has participated in team penning, arena polo and numerous roundups at friends’ ranches.

His love of trail riding and exploring new areas has led him all over our state. His extensive knowledge includes the White Mountains, Lincoln National Forest, Cloudcroft/Mayhill, Gila Wilderness, Mt. Riley, Chama/Brazos, Cruces Basin Wilderness,

Sabinoso Wilderness and the Red Lake area.

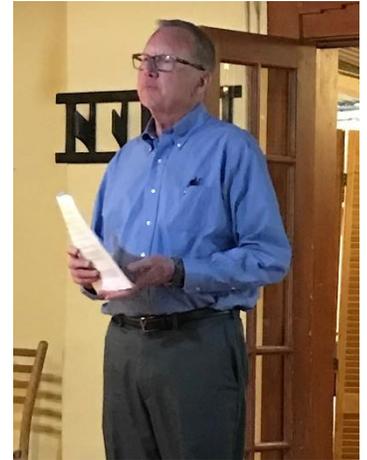
Ed is a member of the El Paso Sheriff’s Posse, which holds its annual spring rides in Chama. As Trail Boss, he planned, organized and led 39 riders on multi-day rides last year. Ed has lived in the Santa Fe area since 2016 with his wife and their Weimaraner, Alysa. His horse, Cherokee, is a half Morgan and Tennessee Walker.

We are fortunate to have such an experienced rider in charge of our Ridge Rider rides. Please say “howdy and thanks” the next time you see or speak with Ed!

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# Attorney Scott Voorhees Talks Equine Law – No Horsin’ Around about That

Scott Voorhees provided a great overview of equine law, particularly as it relates to the NM Equine Liability Act, a state statute. The act, in part “...encourages owners, trainers, operators and promoters to sponsor or engage in equine activities by providing no person receive payment for injuries resulting from the risks related to the behavior of equine animals while engaged in equine activities.” Whew, that’s quite a sentence.



As an attorney and former rider, Scott provided many helpful tips and suggestions to help ensure we all understand our responsibilities and those of others.

He started his remarks by highlighting the importance of having the Equine Liability Act posted in a prominent location in your facilities, barn or shed – wherever equine activities take place.

While homeowners’ and renters’ insurance should cover you, it’s a good idea to check your policy. In some cases, where there are equines (defined as llama, horse, pony, mule, donkey or hinny, according to the statute), over some threshold number insurance companies may require additional coverage.

Scott advised that we must take “reasonable action” if we are to disprove negligence on our part. An example of negligence could be failing to make “reasonable and prudent efforts to determine the ability of a rider,” i.e., putting a novice rider on a hot horse could show negligence.

The issue of negligence can also apply to faulty tack or equipment and conditions of the land or facilities. In other words, keep fences mended, girths in good condition and the like!

How to spot negligence in others? If the owner of a loose horse on public land allows it to endanger you and your horse, that could demonstrate negligence on the part of the loose horse’s owner. Likewise, a stray dog charging a rider and horse on public trails could result in the dog’s owner being negligent.





The upshot, Scott explains, is that “No person, corporate or partnership shall make any claim against, maintain any action or recover from the rider, operator, owner, trainer or promoter for injury, loss or damage resulting from equine behavior unless the acts or omissions on the rider, owner...” or others constitute negligence.

Thank you, Scott, for your invaluable insights regarding equine law. Your comments surely enable all of us, as well as NNMHA itself, to continue to practice safe standards in whatever we and others do with our equines.

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## Paying Dues Online is a Success

What a breeze it is to pay for dues online, and Karen Denison reported at the last Board meeting that the new online dues payment option appears well accepted and that many members (including some new members) took advantage of this new option. Just a reminder: **Payment was due by the end of last month, so if you still need to renew, please do so right away.** Go to our website, [nnmha.org/join.html](http://nnmha.org/join.html) and follow the easy directions.

A big thanks to Karen for making this possible. If you have questions about dues payment, contact her at [redmule@kdt.net](mailto:redmule@kdt.net), 505 469-2698.

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## Board Approves New Giving Program



Board members gave final approval to NNMHA’s philanthropic Giving Program at last month’s meeting. The program supports three categories of giving - scholarships, sponsorships and grants – and there are application forms for each category.

As a 501(c)3 organization, NNMHA can now provide financial aid and in-kind services to specific equine-related requests for help. In keeping with our mission and vision, we will focus resources with regard to equine wellness and equestrian activities in the broader northern New Mexico community. Specifically, we may support clinics, education and training, horse shows and event sponsorships, to mention a few.

As stated in the giving program guidelines, “Equines are our passion...” and so we are excited to put our resources to work on behalf of the passion that all horse people

share. Details regarding the Giving Program (guidelines, procedures, who is eligible), as well as application forms for the three categories of giving, are posted on our website, [nnmha.org](http://nnmha.org).

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# New Ridge Riders Coordinator, Events, Outreach Efforts, PA System Needs Reviewed at Board Meeting

Ed Srsic is NNMHA's new committee head for Ridge Riders and has already begun scheduling rides for this year. Ed has vast experience in organizing and hosting fun, safe rides, so we welcome him aboard! Thanks, Ed. (See related article.)

Board member Paula Zima has taken on the task of developing a contact list for other groups and organizations that may be interested in our new Giving Program, clinics and other events. As a community outreach effort, it makes sense for us to create and maintain liaisons with others who share our same interests.

Likewise, Board president Howard Gershon and Board member Evalyn Bemis are exploring the possibility of a joint film fundraiser with The Horse Shelter later in the year. Such an event would include an opportunity to discuss local equine issues and needs, particularly those prompted by the film topic.

Joyce Davis reported on several meeting programs in the planning stages for later this year. Joyce is also working with Board members Carol Marthens and Paula Zima on clinics, including a Ranch Riding clinic on Saturday, April 9, hosted by trainer/clinician Terry Berg. (See related article.)

The Board also discussed the need for a portable, wireless and rugged Public Announcement (PA) system, so clinic participants and auditors can more easily hear the comments and directions given by hosts. Karen Denison was asked to continue to source options for Board review.

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, March 15, 6 pm, via zoom. If you have questions or comments for the meeting or would like to attend, please contact any Board member. We welcome member input.

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# Clinic Held at HIPICO Last Month

Member Katrin Silva and colleagues Jec Ballou and Amy Skinner hosted a “bring your horse as is” clinic in



February. Participants expanded their comfort zone working on horsemanship, using various exercises and foundational work, among others.

In these photos Katrin is working with participants (right) and other riders are maneuvering over obstacles (left).

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## Going to a Clinic or Workshop?

Aren't we delighted with the start-up of clinics and workshops these days? If you are attending, please grab your phone or tablet and take a few photos for this newsletter and the NNMHA website. We will use photos as space allows.

When taking photos, consider some variety – small groups, clinic leaders in action, someone demonstrating a particular technique and happy faces of people and equines alike! No need to record any participant names, but tell us the date, location, name of event, host or clinician and a few highlights of what took place.



Send photos to Sandra Smith, [smithcom@goldengate.net](mailto:smithcom@goldengate.net), or Karen Denison, [redmule@kdt.net](mailto:redmule@kdt.net). Thanks for sharing!

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## Do You Know...

What a “corpora nigra” is? It's the irregular, awning-like projection of the eye's iris, suspended over the upper edge of the pupil to shield the retina from excessive light.

# 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, [redmule@kdt.net](mailto:redmule@kdt.net).*

## STUART H. GARBER, DC, PhD, AVCA

Animal chiropractor with 40 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](mailto: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](http://www.lynnclifford.com), 505 231-5353. Check this website for upcoming events and clinics hosted by Lynn and colleagues.

## 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](http://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.

## TRAINER TO WORK WITH NON-PROFIT

ISO-English or Western Trainer willing to work in tandem with local, insured non-profit to bring together horses and humans, who might not otherwise have the opportunity for riding experiences. Seeking two, one-hour time slots per week, preferably on the weekend or between 3:30 - 4:30 pm weekdays. If interested, please e-mail Learning Through Horses at [thunderhorse40@hotmail.com](mailto:thunderhorse40@hotmail.com) with questions or for more information.

## TRAINING, LESSONS, FARM-SITTING

Horse training and riding instruction. Undersaddle instruction, groundwork and problem solving with an emphasis on setting an optimal foundation of the basics you can build on. Successfully gentling young horses and renegotiating behaviors in troubled horses for 15 years. Studied under Buck Brannaman and rode for Dressage Olympian Courtney King-Dye. Incorporates studies and education of somatic therapy and the nervous system into training - working with the horse as opposed to on the horse. Also available to farm-sit for winter/spring. Contact Courtney Colella, 336 757-2791, courtneymcolella@gmail.com.

## LIKE NEW CHINKS

These are like new! Chocolate chinks with turquoise buck-stitching and copper conchos. Fits 37-42" waist, with some room for additional buckle holes. They are 32" long, including 7" fine fringe. \$85. Contact Carol Marthens, 214 662-9616 or luminaryllamas@msn.com.



# Board and Committees

### **Officers of the Board**

President	Howard Gershon	<a href="mailto:howard@reach-newheights.com">howard@reach-newheights.com</a>	505 690-8433
VP	John Pearson	<a href="mailto:johnz.pearson@comcast.net">johnz.pearson@comcast.net</a>	650 863-2491
Treasurer	Helen Newton	<a href="mailto:sfcolores@sprynet.com">sfcolores@sprynet.com</a>	505 470-1396
Secretary	John Pearson	<a href="mailto:johnz.pearson@comcast.net">johnz.pearson@comcast.net</a>	650 863-2491
At-large	Evalyn Bemis	<a href="mailto:evalyn@newmexico.com">evalyn@newmexico.com</a>	NA
	Gary Clendenen	<a href="mailto:gclendenen@yahoo.com">gclendenen@yahoo.com</a>	518 225-9935
	Carol Marthens	<a href="mailto:luminaryllamas@msn.com">luminaryllamas@msn.com</a>	214 662-9616
	Paula Zima	<a href="mailto:paula@paulazima.com">paula@paulazima.com</a>	505 629-2838

### **Committees**

Partnerships	Howard Gershon	<a href="mailto:howard@reach-newheights.com">howard@reach-newheights.com</a>	505 690-8433
Giving Program*	Gary Clendenen	<a href="mailto:gclendenen@yahoo.com">gclendenen@yahoo.com</a>	518 225-9935
Ridge Riders	Ed Srsic	<a href="mailto:esrsic@gmail.com">esrsic@gmail.com</a>	415 303-3238
Programs/speakers	Joyce Davis	<a href="mailto:bjmrkitty@gmail.com">bjmrkitty@gmail.com</a>	505 490-5390
Events	Open		
Facebook Manager	Open		
Website Manager	Betsy Walker	<a href="mailto:betwalk@cybermesa.com">betwalk@cybermesa.com</a>	505 466-1943
Communications/ membership	Karen Denison	<a href="mailto:redmule@kdt.net">redmule@kdt.net</a>	505 469-2698
Newsletter	Sandra Smith	<a href="mailto:smithcom@goldengate.net">smithcom@goldengate.net</a>	505 983-0144

\*Scholarships, grants and sponsorships

**Website** <http://www.NNMHA.org>  
**NNMHA Email** [contact@nnmha.org](mailto: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 get in touch with any Board member for more information.*

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***As long as there's a breath left in your body,  
you'll want to be around horses  
and nothing in this world will keep you from 'em.  
Walter Farley, author of "The Black Stallion"***