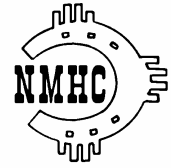


New Mexico Horse Council
P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184



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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

"Horses do think. Not very deeply, perhaps, but enough to get you into a lot of trouble." A Horse Around the House, Patricia Jacobson and Marcia Hayes, Crown Publishing, 1978.

Calendar

Jan. 20, 2007, 7:00 PM, 2006 Annual Meeting And Board Elections, presentation of Certificates of Appreciation and the first NMHC Lifetime Achievement Award.

Feb. 7, 7:00 PM, NMHC Board of Directors Meeting. Lewiecki's, 2510 Elfego Road NW, Albuquerque. **2007 Board Meetings: March 5, April 2, May 7, June 4, July 9, August 6, October 1, November 5**. See web site for location; all Board meetings are open.

May 5 - 6, ⇨ **NMHC Horse Fair** ⇩, Expo New Mexico.

May 5, 12:00 Noon: General Membership Meeting at the Horse Fair. Agenda to include a revision of the Bylaws concerning quorum at Board meetings.

June 9 - 10: **NMHC Trail Ride**, Trailhead and overnight camping available at **Baca Chica Ranch**; beautiful scenic ride to "El Morro" National Monument.

June 17 - 19: **American Horse Council Annual Meeting and Issues Forum**, Washington, D.C. Also, semi-annual meeting of the **State Horse Councils Advisory Committee**.

September 7 - 23: **New Mexico State Fair**, with NMHC Booth & Stall.

November 2 - 4: **State Horse Councils Advisory Committee** semi-annual meeting, Lexington, KY, hosted by the Kentucky Horse Council. (Open.)

December date TBA: **NMHC Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner**.

(Flea Market & Tack Swap date & location TBA.)

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Welcome Back to the Horse Council

It's been a cold, snowy winter by New Mexico's standards, but not nearly as overwhelming as in some of the rest of the country. Horses are finally shedding, snow and ice are melting, fields and paddocks are drying, and riding and training can resume – as can the newsletters. Your editor's husband retired last year – I need say no more to others in the same situation. NMHC can continue to afford to publish the newsletters – and put on the Fair – if you join or send a donation. Dues go to the Horse Council, Horse Fair money goes to the Horse Fair, but we can easily split out one check if you send it. Then get out and ride!



Legislative Session 2007

“Just because you don’t take an interest in politics doesn’t mean politics won’t take an interest in you.” – Pericles

January 16: Session begins at noon.

February 15: Deadline to introduce legislation.

March 17: Session ends at noon.

April 6: Legislation not acted upon by Governor Richardson is pocket vetoed.

June 15: Unless legislation includes an emergency clause with an earlier date, new laws go into effect.

For our out-of-state readers (we do have a few), New Mexico alternates “long” or sixty day sessions in odd numbered years with “short” or thirty day sessions in even numbered years. Seventy representatives and forty two senators serve as citizen legislators. The legislative web site, www.legis.state.nm.us, has improved markedly in recent years, and I urge you to see just what your senator and representative are up to. There are quite a few bills of interest this year:

HB 445 (Gutierrez) and **SB 486 (Feldman)**, Conservancy District Liability Immunity, would remove liability from Conservancy Districts and transfer it to the State Parks or local governments that maintain the ditch trails as part of a park or project. The ditch trails network is incomparable, and many people choose their homes because of the “ditch access”. However, due to concerns about liability the Conservancy Districts post “no trespassing” signs – then generally ignore recreational users such as pedestrians, bicyclists and equestrians. If this bill passes, a true trail use policy might emerge.

The New Mexico Horse Council lobbied hard for this bill last year and considers its passage essential.

The Board did not take a stand on other bills that have been introduced, but the following do concern horses and the horse community.

SB 655 (Komadina), Wild Horse Testing, Adoption and Euthanasia. This would affect horses on public land in NM, and requires assessment of history and conformation, as well as a DNA test, to determine if the horses are

descended from the original Spanish Colonial horses. If they are, they must be relocated to preserves. Additionally, states that herd size should be limited through birth control; if not possible, relocation, adoption or euthanasia is allowed.

NMHC’s Annette Gonzales is tracking this legislation; many organizations devoted to preserving the Spanish Colonial horse doubt that conclusive DNA markers have been found. They applaud the attention to conformation and history, and state that certified experts should perform the assessments.

SB 368 (Komadina), “Promoting Wild Horse Tourism”, provides money (\$80,000) to the state Tourism department to promote wild-horse tourism.

HB 809 (Lujan), provides \$134,000 for NM Highlands Rodeo Athletic Program.

SB 616 (Jennings), Allows tax credits for livestock (including horses) killed by wildlife. (A horse in Catron County was reported killed by wolves recently.)

HB 1033 (Anderson) provides \$50,000 to set up a New Mexico Youth Day rodeo in 2008.

HB 326 (Miera) expands cruelty to animal offenses to include withholding food and water so as to imperil life.

SB 559 (Mary Jane Garcia), Commission on the Welfare of Animals Act, creates this commission and endows it with duties that appear to reflect Governor Richardson’s press release distributed before the legislative session began.

SB 93 (Papen) and HB 57 (Nunez) appropriates \$150,000 to expand the NMSU Equestrian program.

And **Senator Joe Carraro’s** Capital Outlay Requests include \$350,000 to plan, design construct, renovate and equip a multipurpose equestrian facility on open space in Bernalillo County. (That would be **La Boca Negra Park** in Senator Carraro’s district, planned as a horse facility for public use on land west of Albuquerque. Original intent in 1975 was to





build arenas, stalls, a building and an RV park, but money was never appropriated and subsequent Open Space officials prohibited additional structures after two arenas and a small building were constructed. Presently, the 160 acres has a small building, an arena with bleachers, sprinklers, lights and an announcer's stand, pens for roping cattle, and a cross country course. Current Open Space management is amenable to further improvements, which are badly needed.) *Note: New Mexico Horse Council administered the facility for a number of years, but fixed expenses far exceeded revenues, so the City of Albuquerque negotiated a lease with the current tenant.*

Senator Steve Komadina, who has always been involved with horses, also included money in his Capital Outlay Requests to “plan, design, construct, renovate and equip a multipurpose equestrian facility on open space in Bernalillo County.” So does **Senator Bernadette Sanchez**.

It should be noted that listing a capital outlay request is far from having actual money in hand. It has to be sliced and diced, compiled in a final list, and given to the governor for possible line item vetoes (or perhaps additions!).

Legislative Memorials, if passed, do not have the force of law. However, they should be watched for future intent. HM is a house memorial, SM is a Senate Memorial, and SJM is a joint memorial.

SM 12 (Komadina), “The Right to Ride on Public Lands”, urges the US Congressional Delegation from New Mexico to introduce and support bills supporting the historic use of pack and saddle stock on federal lands.

SJM 8 (Komadina), asks the federal government to improve management of wild horse herds and to develop tourism programs at national wild horse territories and other wild horse ranges.

SM 17 (Komadina), Native American Wild Horse Herd Management, encourages pueblos and tribes within the borders of New Mexico to adopt new management practices and to endorse eco-tourism to promote their wild horses herds.

SM 26 (Komadina), although titled “Promotion of Animal Rights”, actually supports animal

welfare and opposes any expenditure of funds to promote animal rights.

SJM 5 (Papen), “Cowboys For Cancer Research” Days, asks that October 12- 14, 2007, be named **Cowboys for Cancer Research Days** because the all volunteer organization has collected and contributed thousands of dollars to New Mexico based research programs, \$140,000 in 2006 alone. This bill has already passed and been signed.

I am also informed that 2006 HB 622, Capital Outlay Projects, included funding (19.2 million) for an equestrian facility, and RFP’s (requests for proposals) are now circulating for the design and construction of a “world class equestrian facility”.

Do keep an eye on those people we elected.

Annual Meeting

Traditionally, the NMHC Annual Meeting is held in December, but that proved difficult this year so it was shifted to January 20 at the Quarters Restaurant on Albuquerque’s West Side. This has been a snowy winter, and January 20 proved no exception. Fewer than half of the people who called actually made it to the meeting; those from the south, the west and areas around Albuquerque had little trouble, while members from Santa Fe and north, and the East Mountain communities, decided against the drive. A good time was had by those who did arrive.

The business meeting began with approval of the 2005 Annual Meeting minutes and continued with the treasurer’s report. Copies are available to any member, but briefly, the Council’s expenses exceeded its income and have for some time. That needs to be reversed. The Horse Fair was very well liked and did make a small profit. The Foundation was inactive, although a new Foundation Board was created and will be working on it.

Horse Council

Beginning Balance	\$3109.87
Total Bills	-5985.16
Total Income	+6439.41
<u>Transfer from Savings</u>	<u>+2500.00</u>
Ending Balance	6154.12
(Bills Pending = \$1560.44)	





Horse Fair

Beginning Balance	\$5622.13
Total Bills	-24016.11
Total Income	+26260.48
Ending Balance	\$7838.22

Horse Council Savings Account

Beginning Balance	\$9890.74
Interest Income	+9.14
Transfer to HC Account	-2500.00
Ending Balance	\$7383.88

Horse Council Foundation

Beginning Balance	\$3767.50
Income	+245.41
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	\$4012.91

Members voted to retain the present dues structure: \$15.00 per calendar year individual, \$30.00 clubs and organizations, \$30.00 commercial entities, and \$200 lifetime individual.

President Laura Burton reviewed 2006. A major problem was attaining a quorum at Board meetings, and the lack of a quorum at several scheduled meetings meant that necessary business was deferred. The **2006 Horse Fair** was successful monetarily and popular with attendees. Like the 2005 Fair it made a profit, a hopeful trend after the loss in 2004. The **Trails Project** is making steady progress, with Council of Governments assistance. We hope that maps will be available in March. NMHC sent a delegate to both the **American Horse Council Annual Meeting** and the **State Horse Council Advisory Committee** meetings; like many others, the NMHC delegate paid her own expenses. The **NMHC Foundation** put together a new Board and has plans to add more directors and perhaps fund its first project. **Membership** declined a bit, but more people accessed the web sites and became familiar with the organization. Due to lack of money and time, **newsletters** were not published with the usual regularity. The **State Fair Booth** (where the Council provides a large tent and a stall for any horse organization that wishes to promote itself during the Fair) was not as successful as before. The committee had commitments for all Fair days except two, and many simply did not show up. Since the costs are considerable, this project will be re-evaluated in 2007. Due to non-quorum Board meetings, the

Flea Market did not get put on the schedule. And the **Trail Ride** had to be cancelled at the last minute due to extreme fire danger. Many Council members worked hard on various projects even though their lives are already fully committed, and we continued to see our Council being consulted on various projects in New Mexico, such as a proposed wild horse preserve in McKinley County. NMHC members sit on several committees, including the **Greater Albuquerque Recreational Trails Committee** and the **Governor’s Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian Committee**. Others represent horse owners and riders on various Task Forces, hearings and community organizations. NMHC members were consulted for an upcoming article in *New Mexico Magazine*, and the state Department of Transportation is close to publishing an *Equestrian Awareness Brochure* to complement similar brochures about pedestrians and bicycles. And the NMHC Board continues to explore how to make the organization, and its directors, truly a statewide group.

Election of Directors. Jan Henfling, Kristin Darnell-Schmitt and Jennifer Bates Averill were elected to three year terms on the Board. There are still vacant director positions due to resignations, and those interested should contact NMHC.

Awards. The budget will not permit glossy, expensive awards but we do very much appreciate the people who work hard for the Council and for the horse community – and it is a pleasure to award the following Certificates of Appreciation, accompanied by the official NMHC scratch pad:.

For the Horse Council and Horse Community:

Jackie Bouker: Finished a term as NMHC Director, allowing her to return to primary goal of attending one million trails meetings and riding one million miles.

Laura Burton: Finished multiple terms as President of NMHC; assembles state fair booth participants each year; helps Horse Fair in many capacities.

Diana de Blanc: Equine veterinarian who is there to volunteer her time for events that need her.





Peggy Durkin: Event booker at Expo New Mexico, tries hard to achieve the impossible - satisfying her employers and the horse groups.

Liz Edmunds: Always promoting horse events, matching people with horses, helping and educating horse owners.

Frosty and Tom of Corrales Animal Control: they achieve a balance in responding to complaints and educating both animal owners and those who observe them.

Annette Gonzales: Completed term as Vice President; co-chaired Horse Fair; set up Trail Ride.

Richard and Suellen Hensleigh: Active in horse activities really too numerous to mention, mainly quarter horses and saddlebreds; produce Quarter Horse Test Ride for the Fair.

Morey Liebling: His business, Sandia Trailer Sales, promotes horse events and helps horse groups statewide.

Maura Lewiecki: Head of NMHC Trails Committee; serves on Greater Albuquerque Recreational Trails Committee; prime mover in NMHC Mid Rio Trails Mapping Project.

Winona Kennedy: Just finished a term as NMHC Director, extremely active in miniature horses, a goodwill ambassador taking the "minis" out into the rest of the world.

Nancy Searles: Multiple terms as NMHC Secretary, and she has managed Horse Fair clinician and vendor hospitality for two years.

Loretta Tollefson: Special Projects Manager for Mid Region Council of Governments, mover in new transportation maps with horses, actually joined riders to observe problems first hand.

Dolly Wallace: Active in keeping Bosque Farms horse friendly, and in working with Mid-Region Council of Governments on South Mesa Transportation Plan (including horses).

For The Horse Fair:

Josh Armstrong: Producing and starring in a great working cow clinic on Sunday, and reining freestyle on Saturday.

Eric Bravo: Featured Native American clinician at the Horse Fair.

Merry Cole: With the Albuquerque Vaulters, produced "How to Fall Safely" clinic.

Linda Dahl: Creator of the Horse Fair Program, extender of deadlines, recipient of many calls for help, problem solver.

Randall Davis: Popular NM clinician at the Horse Fair for several years.

Gary Disco: And Disco Display set booths, staked against that wind, made new signs, stayed until the job was done.

Amber Isselhard: Event coordinator assigned by Expo NM. Melted her cell phone with emergencies, all of which she solved.

Las Campanas Equestrian Center, Caroline Invicta Stevenson and Sarah Invicta Williams: created and presented a hunter clinic for many happy participants.

New Mexico Hunter Jumper Association: lent the necessary jumps for the clinic.

Governor Bill Richardson: was invited to the Horse Fair, along with his horse, Sundance. They were unable to attend, but provided a welcome letter for the program.

Troy Rogers: was a Horse Fair sponsor and provided cattle for the working cow clinic.

Wayne Williams: consulted, worked with participants, produced and was announcer for the entertainment.

Lifetime Achievement Award: In 2002, the Horse Council created the "Horse Person of the Year" award, for outstanding achievement in helping horses and people. That first year, the award was presented to **Karen Reyer**; subsequent winners were **Elsie Shollenbarger, Melanie Scholer** and **Suzanne Norton Jones**. This year, the Board of Directors decided to instead grant the first lifetime achievement award to **Blair Darnell**. Elsie Shollenbarger presented the carved glass sculpture to Blair Darnell, saying that for the past many years, whenever you looked around where people were needed to help with horse activities, Blair was there. Elsie recounted how she had met Blair and her husband, Casey, at the movies thirty





years before and Blair said “this new group, the New Mexico Horse Council, needs you!” and Elsie ended up serving several terms as President. Blair’s accomplishments in the horse world are well known – an honorary lifetime member of the Bernalillo County 4-H Program, after years of managing it with films, clinics, rides, overnight camping trips, and awards. Blair was the New Mexico Quarter Horse Association “Man of the Year”. She and husband Casey bred both Quarter Horse and Thoroughbred race horses. She served as American Quarter Horse Association Director and is now Director Emeritus.

But, Elsie continued, in addition to leaving an imprint in every part of the horse community, Blair is active elsewhere – on the Board of the Maxwell Museum of Anthropology (and participating in “digs”); an active trustee of Sandia Preparatory Schools and the “go-to” person when something needed doing, according to their archivist. She is active in the art world and music world as well. There is no one more deserving of this first lifetime achievement award, Elsie said, as Blair has made an incalculable difference with both horses and people.

I am reminded of a story former NMHC President Nancy Gage tells of her first meeting with Blair Darnell. It left an indelible impression on her. She was on a trail ride and saw Blair riding alongside a child on a difficult horse, mentoring and teaching so the child not only survived the ride but had a good time. She asked if the child were a relative and found that Blair had never met the child before, just noticed the difficulties. Where were the parents? “Back there a ways”, said Blair, “They can’t handle their horses either.”

Membership

Dues. There is a dues form included with this newsletter, and if you have already paid dues won’t you hand it on to someone else? In fact, we would like to have our members be informal ambassadors for the Council. We can provide you with extra newsletters or brochures (even a brochure holder!) to put in your boarding barn or wherever horse people gather. The dues structure remains the same. Calendar year annual dues are **\$15.00 for Individuals, \$30.00 for clubs and associations, \$30.00 for commercial businesses, and \$200.00 for Lifetime individuals.** We have



seven lifetime individual members: Mary Jo Wallen (the first one, and also a lifetime individual member of the Indiana Horse Council), Rob Atchley, David Copher, Regina Guest-Ruppert, Nance McManus, Karen Reyer and me.

Member dues pay for the newsletters (especially if you elect to receive them electronically as a pdf) and dues to the American Horse Council, as well as some other expenses of the club. We have not had a really good fundraiser for several years, and this year were lucky we had the savings account to cover the shortfall. If members could recruit additional members, and if they could work to make the Horse Fair a roaring success, the Council would achieve a better financial footing.

Members equal clout and growing membership numbers help NMHC achieve credibility as our horse owners become a presence at meetings and in planning. Recently, I was invited by NMHC member and KHFM Classical Music Station announcer Bob Bishop to address the New Mexico Broadcaster’s Association monthly “Ascertainment” breakfast. Is it not true that the major problem facing horse owners, riders and the equestrian community today can be summed up as “loss of habitat”? Horses are meant to wander, but few of us can afford the ten to twenty acre pasture that clinician Curt Pate says would assure their emotional health. But everywhere habitat is shrinking. Land prices are rising; there is no room for multiple pastures, outside hunt courses, galloping tracks; horses are excluded from many trails and the trails themselves are disappearing. Informal cross country rides through subdivisions platted forty years ago are a thing of the past, and formal trails in those subdivisions were never a consideration. Even people with good horse facilities find new neighbors enchanted with the rural idea but not with its reality. Show facilities and race tracks are eyed as candidates for a “higher, better” use rather than admired for the open areas and the horse uses. The Horse Council and its members continue to resist these changes and create good new riding opportunities.

Member news. Our condolences and best wishes to Catherine Logan-Carrillo on the loss of her husband and to Nancy Searles on the loss of her sister. And we wish a complete recovery to Dennis Wilder, injured last month in a riding accident.





Board Meeting

The February Board meeting was held at Maura Lewiecki's house. Directors elect the officers in NMHC, and the following officers will serve in 2007:

President: **Rusty Cook**, RustyCook4412@msn.com
Vice-President: Elsie Shollenbarger, 873-0888
Secretary: Nancy Searles, nansearl@swcp.com
Treasurer: Val Cole, valcole@flash.net

Directors:

Jennifer Averill, javerill@comcast.net
Cathy Chapel, cathy@sandiatrailer.com
Kristin Darnell-Schmitt, riverroadone@aol.com
Jan Henfling, jkh@att.net
Maura Lewiecki, MauraLew@aol.com
Eldon Reyer, laespuela2@msn.com
Deb Swalby, triplesandt@netzero.net

Dates were selected for the Board meetings for the balance of the year, as well as the trail ride. Progress on the Horse Fair was approved. The State Fair booth was a problem last year, as many groups with commitments did not show up; the cost of the booth and tent is over \$700 and we charge the groups nothing to use the area. The legislative session was discussed, but the only bill the Horse Council supports at this time is the Waiver of Liability for the Conservancy District, which, if passed, should make the district more comfortable with equestrian recreational use of the ditch network.

There are several vacancies on the Board. Some members have approached officers but cannot attend all Board meetings, and lack of a quorum was a major problem last year. We are checking on various conference call possibilities, but many are expensive and none is trivial to set up. The budget needs building, not depleting, so members (under the Bylaws, directors must be current members in good standing) who would like to take a board position for a year or two years should contact the President, Rusty Cook, at RustyCook4412@msn.com. If you would like to help NMHC with a small project, but not be a director, we surely can accommodate you. One large project that needs many helpers is the Horse Fair, our outreach to the horse and non-horse community.

Horse Fair

Every year after the Horse Fair ends, exhausted volunteers wonder if the event was a worthwhile project. Every year we assess the comments of those attending the Fair and observe that it fits our mission "To act on behalf of the New Mexico equine community through education and promotion of activities benefiting all equine interests." We see what worked and what needed tweaking, and decide to give it another go. Many state horse councils have "grown" their events to be a major source of funds for their scholarships and other programs. Others are not so successful with the bottom line. The State Horse Councils Advisory Committee has a subcommittee called "Fairs and Expos", and several years ago developed three principles that contribute towards a successful event. (If these three are followed, there is no guarantee of success; however, if they are not it can be more difficult to succeed. Those rules are:

1. Have a good name at the top of the attractions.
2. Hold the Fair in a well populated area.
3. Make sure parking is free for the event - charge admission, but *don't* charge to park.

Number (1) has been the easiest. We have had several of the most respected people in the industry come to offer clinics at our Fair. Number (2) means we have to hold it in the greater Albuquerque area – and given that, we have to hold it at Expo New Mexico, the only venue with the facilities. Number (3) has proven to be an impossible problem to solve. Expo has multiple events taking place every weekend, so keeping a count and paying for everyone doesn't work. Expo is adamant about universal parking fees, and the anti-donation clause in the State Constitution (whipped out at the drop of a hat) apparently prevents them from "giving" away parking. I remember Sam Hancock (several managers ago) telling the State Fair Commission "never give up your parking!"

Making the problem worse this year is the State Fair Commission's decision to increase parking fees, beginning March 1, from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per auto. The stated reason is the recent passage of a minimum wage law and the need for more money in the payroll for the Expo employees.





After much discussion, the Directors decided to turn Rule # 3 upside down, and make *admission* to the Horse Fair free for all spectators at all events. This will be perhaps a one-time-only decision, and we hope it will be reflected in many more spectators, happy vendors and large exposure to the wonderful world of horses as THE thing to do on May 5 & 6.

This decision does have several consequences. **First**, the “gate” will be lost and we will have to pick up sponsors and supporters elsewhere. (This has not materialized to date, but many smaller sponsors can equal several bigger sponsors.) **Second**, most of the Horse Fair events are in the Dairy Barn (Saturday evening entertainment is scheduled to be held in the Horse Arena). The Dairy Barn has multiple entrances (some volunteers estimated a hundred) and it required a huge crew to check wristbands, the easiest way to determine paid spectators. Cheers were heard. And **third**, horse people don’t like to pay to attend horse events. Show me an event with a huge paid gate and I will show you other compensations – free tickets, a casino, something. **Fourth**, now we need another way to get a good count. (Good counts tend to be lower, but more honest, than wild estimates.) The current plan is to offer a very nice item as a giveaway each day, and take signups for a daily drawing.

We do now have one new sponsor category: **Friend of the Fair**, \$25 - \$199, and you get a name mention in the program and the knowledge that you were much needed, much appreciated, and contributed to the success of the Fair.

Some of the people who have worked to achieve liftoff in the Horse Fair are unavailable this year. We can use help in these major categories:

- SPONSORS
- VENDORS
- SILENT AUCTION
- VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
- NMQHA TEST RIDE – SEE NMQHA
- PUBLICITY
- KIDS CORRAL
- PROMOTIONS

At this point, we think we have covered Stallion Row, Hospitality, Horse Community Advertising, Poster and Rack Cards, Clinicians and Early Mailings.

So who is coming to the Horse Fair this year? **Richard Shrake**, sponsored by Sandia Trailer

Sales and Sundowner Trailers, will be our headliner. Mr. Shrake has been here before, and I remember particularly 1999, when he met J.C. Hare, a Make-A-Wish child, and the horse J.C. wanted so much, Hobo Doc. No one who saw it late that evening could forget the careful introduction, the gradual ease as the two got to know each other under Shrake’s measured instruction, and the final comfortable lope around the arena. J.C. was facing an arm and shoulder amputation the next day to attempt to halt his cancer, but recovered sufficiently to enjoy a long summer and autumn of rides along the Rio Grande on Hobo Doc – wearing the boots Mr. Shrake brought as a gift.

From Big Timber, Montana we will welcome **Bob Blackwell**, the horse’s advocate. Bob has a long history of training horses for intelligent cooperation in ranch work and has things to say about “unnatural natural horsemanship”.

Of course, New Mexico is home to some world class trainers and we have been very lucky in the past to have them visit the Horse Fair. **Randall Davis** of Crown Point is returning – he is well known to and very popular with New Mexico Horse People. Although multi-talented, he will be starting a colt at the Horse Fair. And new this year is **Katrin Silva** of Antero Equestrian in Santa Fe. Katrin will use demos to show how dressage can be a useful exercise for any horse.

While at the Horse Fair, they will get to meet eight beautiful blondes. They might be a bit overwhelming – Sadie and Thomas, full brother and sister, are just short of 19 hands tall and weigh well over a ton each. These blondes make up “**A Touch of Ear**”, the eight-up hitch of Belgian mules from Diamond JK Ranches. Their driver, J. Mack Bohn, will bring the large support crew necessary. Dixie and June are the leaders of the hitch and are half sisters. Mandy and Kate, full sisters, are the second pair and called the “point” team. The third pair, or “swing” team, are Penny and Pat, half sisters. And the heaviest pair (Sadie and Thomas) are always the “wheel team” next to the wagon. For those of you thrilled by the six horse hitches we have seen during the State Fair, I’m told driving an “eight” is twice as hard and twice the fun. Be sure to see these mules hitched and driving, and visit them in the Palomino Barns.

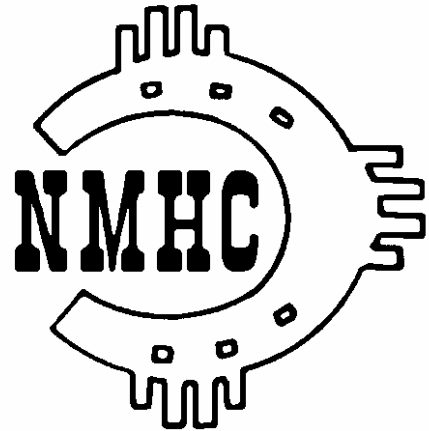


New Mexico Horse Council, Inc.

Established 197

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To: *Horse Fair Supporters*

It's time to think about the New Mexico Horse Council Horse Fair 2007, to be held at Expo New Mexico (the State Fairgrounds) in Albuquerque on Saturday, May 5th and Sunday, May 6th, 2007.

Our 2007 theme: *Horses and People – Hoofprints through Time*

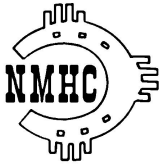
We are happy to welcome back RICHARD SHRAKE (www.richardshrake.com) and his Resistance Free® training methods as the headliner at the 2007 Fair. But there's more:

- WAYNE WILLIAMS, the “Voice of Horse Fairs”, will be our master of ceremonies and on-site manager. Among his other activities produces the “Speaking of Horses” radio program for HorseTradeShow.com. Look for a live webcast at the NMHC Horse Fair!
- Montana clinician BOB BLACKWELL, “the horse’s advocate”, www.blackwellhorseclinics.com
- New Mexico’s own RANDALL DAVIS starting your horse right, www.RandallDavisnm.com
- New Mexico’s own KATRIN SILVA, dressage for *any* horse, www.AnteroEquestrian.com.
- “A TOUCH OF EAR”, famous eight mule hitch! www.mulehitch.com.
- The search for the ultimate HORSE IDOL contest will be held at seven Horse Fairs and Extravaganzas nationwide including the New Mexico Horse Fair. www.ultimatehorse.com.
- Seminars and Demonstrations: choosing a horse; feeding, shoeing, training, much more!
- Stallion Row in the building and a stallion show each day!
- Saturday evening entertainment with our wonderful equines!
- Shopping, Shopping, Shopping! Find everything for you and your horse, including feed, clothing, tack and equipment, authors and books (watch for booksignings), art, more!
- Kid’s Corral – things to see and do!
- Try riding an American Quarter Horse, presented by the AQHA 4aHQRSE Test Ride.
- Huge Silent Auction on Saturday!
- Horse Arena Saturday: NM Horse Fiesta, All Novice QH & All Breed Show! www.nmqha.com.
- Horse Arena Sunday: All Breed Versatility Ranch Horse Competition presented by Troy Rogers!
- *As a gift to New Mexico and its horse community and horse lovers, admission to the 2007 Horse Fair will be free for everyone!*

We welcome sponsors and vendors; forms are available on the Horse Fair web site, www.nmhorsefair.org. Help us make this Horse Fair great!

New Mexico Horse Council





New Mexico Horse Council
P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184
(505) 345-8959



NEW MEXICO HORSE FAIR

May 5 & 6, 2007 – Expo New Mexico – Albuquerque
Contact: Val Cole, 344-8548 (home) or 345-8959 (NMHC), valcole@flash.net

SPONSORSHIPS

Gold Sponsor - \$2,500

- Full page ad in the free Horse Fair program; your logo on the cover
- 2 booth spaces
- 3 banners
- Logo & link on the NM Horse Fair web site (www.nmhorsefair.org)
- 2007 membership in the New Mexico Horse Council (www.nmhorsecouncil.org)
- Logo on the New Mexico Horse Fair poster

Silver Sponsor - \$1,500

- Half page ad in the free Horse Fair program; your logo on the cover
- 1 booth space
- 2 banners
- Logo & link on the NM Horse Fair web site (www.nmhorsefair.org)
- 2007 membership in the New Mexico Horse Council (www.nmhorsecouncil.org)
- Logo on the New Mexico Horse Fair poster

Bronze Sponsor - \$500

- Business card ad in the free Horse Fair program
- 1 booth space
- 1 banner
- 2007 membership in the New Mexico Horse Council

Grassroots Sponsor - \$200

- Business card size ad in the free Horse Fair program
- 2007 membership in the New Mexico Horse Council

Friend of the Fair - \$25 to \$199

- Your name listed in the program, and the knowledge that you have helped make the 2007 Horse Fair a success!

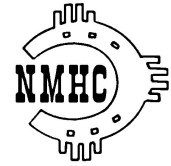
If none of the above categories precisely fits your needs or desires, contact the NM Horse Fair and we will customize a sponsorship package for you.

Horses and People – Hoofprints Through Time





New Mexico Horse Council
P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184
(505) 345-8959



NEW MEXICO HORSE FAIR

May 5 & 6, 2007 – Expo New Mexico – Albuquerque
Early contact: Val Cole, 344-8548 (home) or 345-8959 (NMHC), valcole@flash.net

VENDORS

- 10 x 10 commercial retail booth space \$200.00
- 10 x 10 non-commercial “not for profit” space \$120.00
(i.e. clubs, associations, state agencies, educational institutions)
- 20 x 20 or larger booth, please call for quote
- Electricity \$29 (prefer to know in advance but can be ordered later)
- 10 x 10 horse pen set up next to your booth \$50.00
(need to know in advance for layout)

Will you need a forklift? Notify us in advance.

Your name/business _____

Your address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone _____ e-mail or website _____

Name for booth sign _____

Brief description, products or services _____

Booths will be set up inside the Dairy Barn. Payment is due when reservation is made. Deadline to be listed in the Horse Fair Program is **March 31, 2007**. **Your name will also be listed on the Horse Fair web site, www.nmhorsefair.org**. Set up will be **Friday, May 4**. Booth space fills quickly so please make your reservations as soon as possible.

If you wish to donate an item or service to our silent auction, your name and business cards will be prominently displayed.

Check Enclosed Your signature _____

Return to: New Mexico Horse Fair, P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, NM 87184

Exhibitor agrees to provide own insurance coverage for the two days of the event. No assignment or sublease of the booth by the exhibitor shall be valid without the written consent of the NM Horse Fair. Exhibitor shall defend, indemnify and hold the New Mexico Horse Fair and New Mexico Horse Council harmless from and against any claim, loss, expense or damage to any person in or upon the premises or any area allocated to or used exclusively by the NM Horse Fair or its agents, employees, volunteers or invitees, arising out of exhibitor's use of the rented booth space.

Horses and People – Hoofprints Through Time





New Mexico Horse Fair Stallion Row

May 5 & 6, 2007

Show off your horse!

\$200.00 fee to include: indoor display stall, bedding provided, outdoor stall, scheduled, announced arena time, and free use of designated stallion round pen.

This year promises to be the best opportunity yet to let new people see what New Mexico has to offer! We have expanded our stallion row to be one of the main attractions. They will be front and center at all times and have scheduled times to be in our main arenas during headline events. We have only 12 stalls available so please book early! If booked by 3/31/07 we will advertise your horse in our program.

Please send checks and registration forms to:

New Mexico Horse Council

P.O. Box 10206

Albuquerque, NM 87184



Any questions please call:
Cathy Chapel at 505-281-9860
See us at: www.nmhorsefair.org

Owner name _____
Horse name _____
Phone number _____
Mailing address _____
City, state, zip _____





Horse Fair Vendors/Exhibitors

We still have space in the vendor rows. Since spectator admission is free, this is a great opportunity to showcase your club or breed, or introduce others to your horse activity at the nonprofit price of \$120 – these booths are 10' x 10', and include table, chairs, pipe, drape and a sign. (If you need a pen for a horse, be sure to put it on the contract – you have to be at the end of a row, and the panels are provided by Expo – we just pass the cost along to you. It's the same if you need electricity – We pass along what Expo charges.) If you think even the \$120 is a stretch, why not combine with another club or breed? Wouldn't it be great to have a vendor booth for color breeds, for gaited horses, for therapy groups, for hunters and jumpers, for trail riders, rodeo groups? The sooner the better.

NMQHA Horse Fiesta

Chris Hardcastle of Odessa, TX will judge a one day **all novice** quarter horse and all breed show in the **Horse Arena on Saturday**. Chris will answer questions and offer advice in the AQHA "Ask The Judge" program after each division – Showmanship, Hunter, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Pleasure, Western Horsemanship and Trail. The All Breed Youth division is for riders 11 & Under; the Quarter Horse Youth Division riders are aged 18 & Under. This is a wonderful opportunity for the novice adult (the fastest growing group of exhibitors) or youth to show and then to take in the Horse Fair.

The horse show classes will be followed by two Barrel races, All Breed Youth and All Breed Open, with money added. Entries in these two classes will be limited. Show manager Julie Wilson suggests that riders download the premium and entry blank from the New Mexico Quarter Horse Association web site, www.nmqha.com, and fax it to her at (505) 351-0930.

All Breed Versatility Ranch Horse Competition

Troy Rogers has helped the Horse Fair for many years, and this year will manage his own versatility ranch horse competition. It fits right in with the historic theme for the 2007 Horse Fair, as the competition attempts to return to the "real

ranch horse work" as far as possible within the confines of the **Horse Arena on Sunday**. Entries are limited; Troy says several riders have already inquired about the contest, which will be part of a series with awards. Reach him at home at (505) 865-8973 or on his cell at (505) 269-7318.

Classes will include **Ranch Riding**, which shows the ability to move at "working speed" and natural gaits. **Ranch Trail** contains obstacles requiring tasks that might be asked of the horse during ranch work – opening and closing a gate, dragging an object, being unbridled and rebridled while on course. In **Ranch Cutting**, riders cut a single (numbered) cow from a herd and move it to the other end of the arena. And **Working Ranch Horse** requires the one horse/one rider team to perform a reining pattern with circles, lead changes, runs, stops and rollbacks; following that, the rider will demonstrate control of a cow by holding it at one end of the arena, then taking it down the fence each way. To complete that portion of the class, the contestant ropes the cow.

Trail News

Saddle Up New Mexico has just been published. Written by John and Nina Buonaiuto-Cloyed of Santa Fe, it describes 82 horseback rides in the five National Forests of New Mexico. They also cover difficulty rating, seasons, facility and water availability, special attractions and trail ethics. It is available at local bookstores, and we will try to have the authors at the Horse Fair to sign their books at the Bookworks/UNM Bookstore vendor booth.

Maura Lewiecki continues to collect and plot data on trails in Central New Mexico, since most of us can't take off for the National Forests for every ride. It was a major advance to persuade the Mid Rio Council of Governments to include equestrians in their Transportation Plan, and the trails data continue to come in. There is a tiny dedicated budget for the project, provided when **New Mexico Horseways** dissolved and turned over its treasury for that purpose.

As mentioned in the Annual Meeting Review, the **Governor's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian** committee has completed the first "Equestrian Awareness" brochure to complement "Bicycle Awareness" and "Pedestrian Awareness" brochures. The text describes safe riding near





highways, encounters with other users, and riding in groups. It will be distributed by the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Do Horses Spread Non-Native Plants on Trails? Can plant and weed seeds contained in horse manure, hooves and hay cause non-native plant species (plants that were introduced into the ecosystem but do not grow there naturally) to spread along trails and into parks and forests? A study recently completed by Stith Gower, Ph.D., of the Department of Forest Ecology and Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has determined that horses do not appear to be a major source for the introduction of non-native species.

Gower took samples of hay, manure and hoof debris from up to 24 horses at each of five American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) rides held in North Carolina, Kentucky, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan. The samples were sown in potting buckets and grown outdoors, and also placed along trails. On average, non-native species germinated in 5.2% of the hay samples. However, only three of the 288 hay, manure and hoof debris samples contained plants after the first growing season, and none after the second. A vegetation survey showed no difference between hiker and horse trails. The study was funded by the American Endurance Ride Conference, and the article published by *Blood-Horse Publications Online*.

The New Mexico Sports Authority has announced a ten day, 500 mile endurance race to follow the Santa Fe Trail from Santa Fe (September 3) across Oklahoma and Kansas, finishing in Independence, MO. Over fifty teams have entered so far; the event allows one rider to use several horses. The race is sanctioned by the American Endurance Ride Conference, and more details can be found at www.sfthorserace.com.

NMHC Trail Ride

Annette Gonzales and Mary Jo Wallen have planned the 2007 New Mexico Horse Council Trail Ride, to be held in the Zuni Mountains June 9 and 10. Baca Chica Ranch, owned by Annette's family, will host the ride. They have water and primitive parking, as well as a few electrical



hookups on a first come/first serve basis. Bring food for you and your horse, and something to toss in to the Saturday night potluck dinner (Mary Jo and Dick Wallen are tossing in a big brisket.) Coffee and snacks will be available for you to purchase each morning. This is a beautiful scenic ride to "El Morro" National Monument, and the first time NMHC hosted it the "farthest away" rider came from Kansas to enjoy the mountains.

More information will be posted on the NMHC web site, or you may contact Annette at 998-9221 (daytime) or annette@cdinm.net, or Mary Jo at (505) 783-4206 or mrsdw19@aol.com. You must be an individual member of the Council to participate, as required by our liability insurance.

Fugitive Dust

Several years ago, the Environmental Protection Agency looked about and observed that some formerly clear air was now hazy. The federal agency demanded that the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board work on this problem and develop a plan to mitigate the airborne particulate matter. After studying the disturbed soil that became blowing dust, the Board observed that while the major source was the construction industry, unpaved roads, barren fields, arenas, schoolyards and such areas were also major sources.

Since the entire world cannot be paved, the plan that evolved and was presented to the public over three years ago required annual permits for all "uncovered" areas above a certain size, plans for suppression of airborne dust from the site (such as windbreaks or watering systems) and a structure of fines for noncompliance. This outraged the horse community, among others, and the eventual result was the formation of a task force including the dissenters (Jay Koch represented the horse community). The task force reviewed the alternatives and, as a result, exempted certain groups from the permit/fee/fine structure for a three year period. The agriculture community (including horses) was one of the exempt groups.

The three year exemption has now expired. Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District are now in the third year of a ten-year plan to pave or stabilize roads and ditches. And you may have noticed many water trucks hanging around construction





sites to keep the dust down. The review of the exemptions was originally scheduled for February 14 (what a valentine) but the Air Quality Division had not completed its draft proposal, and cancelled the hearing before it was really cancelled by a snowstorm. Although the next Board meeting is March 14, it is unlikely that the hearing will be part of it. NMHC is on the notification list and will post the hearing on the web site.

Three options:

- Review the results of fugitive dust with the exemptions in place to see if there is sufficient control. If so, perhaps the exemptions should be left in place.
- If control is insufficient, review all the exemptions on a case-by-case basis to see if some should be withdrawn, others left in place.
- If compliance is far below the target, eliminate all exemptions.

A cursory look around the house tells us that “dust happens” – and that is reinforced when the horses get galloping in the paddock on a windy day. But ignoring this mandate is not going to make it go away. The only thing horse owners can do is try to guide the regulations so they are not too difficult or expensive to follow. Thanks to Johnnye Lewis of UNM for background information.

National Animal Identification System

“The ultimate long-term goal of the NAIS is to provide State and Federal officials with the capability to identify all animals and premises that have had direct contact with a disease of concern within 48 hours after discovery.” (*NAIS Implementation Strategies, April 2006.*) Currently, in New Mexico “premises ID” is ongoing and all premises with livestock (including equines) should be registered. See the New Mexico Livestock Board web site for the forms to fill out – www.newmexicolivestockboard.com.

However, contrary to e-mail making the rounds, the government does not want you to register every ride around the block. Initially, those creating the program assumed all livestock movements were quite limited; the concept of a

horse leaving the property for a trail ride and the next day going to a rodeo, stopping at a horse show on the way home, was a shock.

In late 2003, the American Horse Council organized a task force including over thirty national equine organizations. The task force has been recognized as Equine Species Working Group by the USDA. They worked tirelessly to create a system that would not be impossible for horse owners to follow. The most recent recommendations were submitted on August 1, 2006. You can see the complete text at www.equinespeciesworkinggroup.com. A key recommendation was that *no equine movements should be reported*. The current policy of the USDA is that the NAIS is and will be a voluntary program and there are no plans to make it mandatory.

Here is your chance to comment to the government, as seen on the NMHC website. The USDA is soliciting comments about the NAIS documents, which may be read on their web site, www.usda.gov/nais. Comments may be sent to animalidcomment@aphis.usda.gov.

Horse Slaughter

Last year, federal legislation was introduced in both houses to ban horse slaughter. The House version passed, the Senate version was never considered. On January 17, Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky along with Representatives Ed Whitfield, Nick Rahall, John Spratt and 58 co-sponsors reintroduced federal legislation to prohibit the slaughter of horses for human consumption (H.R. 503). Senator Mary Landrieu and 12 other Senators introduced similar legislation in the Senate (S. 311). The bills are identical to last year’s legislation. Also, Representatives Rahall and Whitfield introduced H.R. 249, restoring the prohibition on commercial sale and slaughter of wild free-roaming horses and burros. For texts of all these bills, see <http://www.thomas.loc.gov>.

On January 19, the 5th circuit court of appeals in New Orleans, in overturning a lower court’s ruling, stated that horse slaughter is illegal in Texas, home to two of the nation’s three processing plants. This does not affect the plant in Illinois. Owners are considering an appeal.





American Horse Council

The AHC performs mighty tasks in Washington, D.C. keeping track of legislative and regulatory issues affecting the horse industry. We have been a State Horse Council member for many years, and NMHC also sits on the State Horse Councils Advisory Committee. With a very small staff, the AHC is still able to deliver timely information and requests for our participation. Individuals can join; see their website at www.horsecouncil.org. If you have been familiar with the website in the past, it is redesigned and much easier to navigate.

Among recent communications to NMHC is a report of new Equine Disease pages on the web page www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/. This is the site maintained by the National Animal Health Surveillance System of the USDA. The first new page is on **Equine Herpes Virus**, a virulent form that involved a group of 15 horses shipped from Germany and subsequently shipped to eight different states. The second concerns **Equine Viral Arteritis**, the outbreak in 2006 in Quarter Horses in New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah, Kansas, Montana and Alabama. The impact on the Quarter Horse industry was devastating.

State Horse Councils Advisory Committee

The SHCAC is one of the hardest working and liveliest standing committees of the AHC. It meets twice annually, at the AHC convention (June 2007) and during the first weekend in November, hosted by a state horse council. Last November's meeting was at Rutgers University in New Jersey, and the topics were equine law and litigation, and the many equine science programs under way at Rutgers. The "fun" was an evening at the Meadowlands Race Track, where in spite of small fields (due to the EHV-1 outbreak) a great time was had by all delegates, especially watching the "State Horse Councils Advisory Committee" race, won by Say It With Words.

November 2007 will take the Committee (and anyone else who wants to register and participate) to Lexington, KY. We will see the progress made at the Kentucky Horse Park in preparations for the **Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games™** to be held there in 2010. These games will feature seven equestrian disciplines: Three Day Eventing, Dressage, Show Jumping, Driving,



Reining, Endurance Riding and Vaulting. See www.feigames2010.org. And the Kentucky Horse Council sent mail today celebrating the 32nd birthday of **John Henry**, one of the twentieth century's greatest race horses, now living at the Kentucky Horse Park. A huge party is planned for him on March 9.

The theme of the 2007 November meeting will be "facilities" and current plans involve lectures on a nice bus as the delegates tour farms (visiting Smarty Jones among others) and the Rood & Riddle equine hospital. Details will be available soon at www.statehorsecouncils.org.

Horse Genome Project

Sequencing of the domestic horse genome, begun in 2006, is complete, scientists at the Broad Institute (a part of MIT) announced February 7.

According to Ernie Bailey, Ph.D., of the University of Kentucky's Gluck Institute, the finished map will allow researchers to identify genetic variation between horses and better understand how our equine management practices affect horses' genetic expression. "It's just basically a collection of 30,763,255 random DNA sequences in a database", said Dr. Bailey. "They determined the relationship among the sequences and ordered them among the 32 pairs of horse chromosomes."

The original horse sequenced was a Thoroughbred mare named Twilight; additional DNA from other breeds (Akhali-Teke, Andalusian, Arabian, Icelandic, Quarter Horse, and Standardbred) was also used to provide information on genetic variation.

NM Horse Industry Economic Data

The Governor's Rodeo Council is collecting additional economic data to supplement the American Horse Council Foundation's Deloitte study of the American Horse Industry (with a breakout for the New Mexico Horse Industry). It is believed that the data show horse events in New Mexico, particularly rodeo and western stock events, were underreported to the Deloitte researchers. Economic studies have traditionally been viewed with suspicion by some horse people (count me today, tax me tomorrow) but now it is felt that benefits (a new arena?) outweigh costs.

