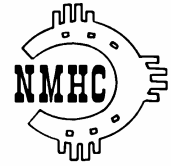


New Mexico Horse Council
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JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008

“There is something about jumping a horse over a fence, something that makes you feel good. Perhaps it is the risk, the gamble. In any event, it’s a thing I need.” – William Faulkner

Calendar

NMHC Annual Meeting: 2007 Annual Meeting and awards dinner was held January 19, 2008, at the Quarters Restaurant, Albuquerque.

Meetings of the Board of Directors are held the first Monday of the month, except January and September, beginning at **6:30 PM**. Please check web site for location.

February 4: (Board) Rusty & Martin Cook’s house, 3607 Sunstar Loop SW. (877-1456)

March 3: (Board) Maura & Michael Lewiecki’s house, 2510 Elfego Road NW. (344-0500)

April 7: (Board) Val & Randy Cole’s house, 1501 Los Arboles Ave. NW. (344-8548)

April 12: (NMHC Members) Visit the NMHC table at the Horsemen’s Feed Party, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, 9700 2nd. Street NW, Albuquerque.

May 3 (Saturday): NMHC Presents Horses In Action at Expo NM Indoor Horse Arena, 9:00 AM to 5 PM. Member help needed!

May 5: (Board) Village Pizza, 4266 Corrales Road, Corrales. (345-8959)

June 15 – 18: American Horse Council June Issues Forum and meetings. Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.

Watch this space or check the web site to find dates for future NMHC events, including a trail ride, flea market and tack swap, and State Fair booth!

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On the membership blank printed in the final 2007 newsletter, I neglected to offer an option to receive the NMHC newsletter as a pdf attached to email. (It is included in the membership form on the web site.) If you wish to get the next newsletter more quickly and let NMHC save the snail postage, please email me at valcole@flash.net. Then I’m sure of having your current e-address.

If you want it mailed, that is fine! But by email, I will add you to a small newsletter mailing group – my server deems me to be a “spammer” if I try to mail more than twenty at a time – et voila! The legislators and officials receive the newsletter as a pdf because, much as we love our printer, we simply don’t have the resources. But if you join, you have the option. Or you can change back and forth.

Val Cole





Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was originally held in November (when, in the dim past, the State required that it be held in the month of original incorporation). One year it slipped to December with no repercussions. After some years in December, battling with travel and holiday commitments, the Board decided to try January, where we found meeting places and dates available. The Quarters Restaurant between Albuquerque and Rio Rancho was selected for the second year. They offered a reasonable meal and a private room, and Maura Lewiecki and others planned decorated tables and door prizes – *many* door prizes. We thank **Horsemen's Feed and Supply** and **Dan's Boots and Saddles**, as well as individual NMHC members, for stepping forward with an overwhelming pile of prizes. Over forty people attended the dinner and meeting, the largest group in several years.

The meeting proceeded with **minutes** from the previous annual meeting, a **treasurer's report**, a review of the past NMHC year and a discussion of the proposed **dues increase**. (It passed.)

Two new **fundraisers** were presented to the membership. \$20.00 buys a chance for a \$100 gift certificate at the Rancher's Club; the first winning ticket was drawn and the Certificate will be mailed to Deb Swalby. The second and final Certificate will be drawn May 3.

And a raffle: David Copher's large wooden sculpture, *Magic Horse*, is being raffled, \$1.00 per ticket, to benefit NMHC. See "Magic" on the web site, or win him at the drawing on the final Saturday of the 2008 State Fair, September 20.

Maura Lewiecki presented a **Trails and Land Use** report, with some encouraging trends in multiple use trails offsetting the loss of trails in several areas. Well over two years of work has resulted in the publication of the 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Equestrian input on trails in several counties resulted in an appendix, "Equestrian List and Map", which is downloadable from their website, www.mrcog-nm.gov. This fulfills part of the NMHC mission to map equestrian trails. See the "*mister cog*" website for updates on the Rio Grande Trail along with 16 miles in use and 40 miles planned.

Elections: Nancy Searles and Maura Lewiecki were reelected, and Phil Reppert and Morey Liebling were elected as well, by acclamation. We still have vacancies on the Board for partial terms, and anyone interested should contact Rusty Cook. Officers for 2008 are elected by the directors at the first Board meeting (February).

President Rusty Cook reviewed the year's progress, with a successful **trail ride** hosted by Baca Chica Ranch, and chaired by MJ Wallen and Annette Gonzales, in the Ramah area of McKinley County. We also **lobbied** (successfully) for bills helping recreational trails. One reduces liability for irrigation and conservation districts listing their dirt roads and paths as recreational trails, allowing them to appear on trails maps. The "Ditches with Trails" workshop and ongoing project is also due to the passage of this bill.

The **State Fair booth** was one of the most successful ever, with Jan Henfling's contacts and spread sheets doing all that is humanly possible to see that the booth always has "ambassadors for equines" and material. The Horse Show office also helped with liaison and delivery of parking and trailer passes, always a problem during the Fair. And let's not forget that Lou Ann Hunt negotiated a good reduced price for the tent we must rent, since income from the tack swap no longer covers this cost.

The **Flea Market and Tack Swap** was held at Sandia Trailer Sales in Edgewood, and while it was smaller than in past years the networking was as always valuable, and most of the vendors sold well.

The most rewarding part of the evening is perhaps the distribution of the **Certificates of Appreciation**, along with "Let's Ride Together" NMHC pads. It certainly is a pleasure to be able to thank publicly a few of the many who help horses, horse people and the horse council. The only down side is that so many contribute, and so few are nominated for the certificates. But we thank all the rest of you as well!

2007 NMHC Awards

"For generous assistance and outstanding support of the Council and the horse community."





Baca Chica Ranch very kindly hosted our 2007 NMHC Trail Ride near Ramah, New Mexico. Owners Virginia and Joty Baca, members of a family that has worked to preserve the Spanish Colonial Horse for several generations, provided campsites, facilities and arranged for the riders to cross land owned by their ranch neighbors in the Zuni Mountains.

Attila Bality is a long time area planner, currently working with the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Program. He was instrumental in setting up the initial "Ditches With Trails" meeting and has continued to spearhead the trails efforts.

Jackie Bouker, long time member of NMHC and even longer time rider of all trails in the Albuquerque area, continues to represent NMHC and equestrian trails users at meetings and hearings at every level of government.

Boyle Engineering, arranged for a flagman with a radio to stop machinery when riders were passing during the portion of the San Juan-Chama project that seriously impacted recreational trails in the Rio Grande Bosque,. They also instantly rebuilt a log "walkover" the very week that they heard there was a problem.

Rusty Cook is entering her second year as President of the New Mexico Horse Council Board of Directors, and is also our web designer, webmaster and representative to the Arabian horse owners and riders and the US Equestrian Federation.

Dede Feldman. State Senator Dede Feldman has introduced several bills helpful to recreational riders, including one helping to convert irrigation ditch roads to recreational use, another creating the position of state trails planner, and was co-sponsor of a bill to reduce liability for irrigation districts allowing recreation on trails.

Alison Haxton, working in the Events department of Expo NM, eases facility planning for large horse events and assisted NMHC with our State Fair booth planning.

Jan Henfling created the database and schedules and distributed passes and other materials for the horse groups occupying the state fair booth.

Morey and Rita Liebling hosted the annual NMHC Flea Market and Tack Swap on the porch and front lawn of Sandia Trailer Sales in Edgewood.

Maura Lewiecki, NMHC Board member, continues to progress with recreational trails mapping and other trails and land use issues for the Council.

George Marr was instrumental in collecting horse owner economic data to further horse owner involvement in planning recreational uses for the Bachechi Open Space property north of Albuquerque.

Claude Morelli helped bring together city, county, state, and national agencies as well as private companies, neighbors and other individuals for the planning workshop for Ditches with trails.

Debbie O'Malley. Albuquerque City Councilor O'Malley dedicated funds in the San Juan Chama water project to build a bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian bridge at a crucial trails junction, and made sure the funds were retained during cutbacks.

Charlie Poore lent a portable Quickstall, produced by his company, to NMHC for the State Fair display in front of the horse arena – delivery and pickup included.

Tim Rogers has been the NM Department of Transportation liaison to the Governor's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian Committee, and has been sensitive to equestrian issues while the State non-motorized transportation plan has been revised.

Lois Seibel is an extraordinary horse show manager and, while heading the office staff in the Horse Department during the annual State Fair, not only kept multiple horse shows running smoothly, but assisted NMHC in technical issues with the NMHC tent and booth.

Jessical Terrell was the first to occupy the newly created State Trails Planner position, and was instrumental in mapping, creating and expanding multiple use trails. Tragically, she was killed this January on her way to a trails





workshop, and this award was accepted by the State Parks Department.

Chris Weller, NMHC member and realtor, works hard to preserve rural quality of life. She created a series of panels titled “Land Use in the Urban Envelope” and has followed up with several other agricultural workshops.

Mary Jo Wallen (“MJ”) again chaired the NMHC Trail Ride in the Zuni mountains. This involves setting the route, marking the highways, coordinating with the camp hosts and the neighboring ranch owners, then “riding herd” on the participants over two days.

Separate certificates were awarded to those making the Horse Fair happen:

“For contributions to the success of the New Mexico Horse Fair.”

Nancy Searles, NMHC secretary, successfully managed to be in several places at once and kept the Horse Fair running.

Carolyn Burdick ran the silent auction, the most profitable part of the Horse Fair.

Kristin Darnell Schmitt managed the kid’s corral, recruiting youth assistance to help many, many children with horse craft projects.

Richard and Suellen Hensleigh again superintended the AQHA Test Ride, introducing fairgoers to the American Quarter Horse with a short supervised ride. The cooperative horses deserve our thanks as well!

Julie Wilson managed the AQHA Novice and Amateur show in conjunction with the Horse Fair, coordinating staff, competitors and spectators.

Dream Catcher Ranchito – owner Mary Ann Andrews donated a weekend at the Santa Fe bed and breakfast at 68 Calle Enrique, Santa Fe, to be used as wished by the Horse Fair. See www.dreamcatcherranchito.com.

Rancho Nambe – owners Dick and Sarah Rochester donated a weekend at their bed and breakfast in Pojoaque to the Horse Fair. See www.RochesterShowHorses.com.



Kathy O’Neal, owner of the Livery Training Stables, donated a series of riding lessons to the Horse Fair. See www.liverytraining.com.

**2007 Horsewoman of the Year
Val Cole!
By Rusty Cook**

At the 2007 Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Horse Council, held January 19, 2008, Val Cole was awarded the honor of being named the Horsewoman of the Year. A nomination letter was submitted by Maura Lewiecki, and outlined the many ways in which Val has been an advocate for equestrians and equine activities in New Mexico and nationally for many years.

Val has represented equestrians on the Greater Albuquerque Recreational Trails Committee for three terms beginning in 1998. She was appointed to Governor’s Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian Committee by NM State Highway & Transportation Department Secretary Pete Rahn in 1998, and the two-year appointment has been renewed as it expired, most recently in February, 2006 by NM Department of Transportation Secretary Rhonda Faught. She has served as the New Mexico delegate to the American Horse Council State Horse Council Advisory Committee (at her own expense), and served as chair from 2004 to 2006. She represented State Horse Councils at the national Unwanted Horse Summit in 2005, and has remained actively involved in the Unwanted Horse Coalition that evolved from that summit.

Val has been a member of New Mexico Horse Council for 25 years and currently serves as Treasurer. She has also been the Newsletter editor for 17 years, has worked on the Horse Fair every year, has actively lobbied on behalf of the equestrian community as a NM Horse Council member for the limited liability for trails legislation, funding for a State trails coordinator, and has been contracted to work at horse shows as paddock master and announcer in New Mexico and nationally.

Val is a thoughtful and informed equine supporter. She attends public meetings to serve as a voice for the equestrian community and then keeps everyone informed through the newsletter, or by telephone or email if immediate action is required.





Through it all she has been supported by her husband Randy, who has also dedicated time, expertise, and a sense of humor to her passionate involvement.

We congratulate Val Cole as the 2007 Horsewoman of the Year!

(Val's note: It is an honor to join this select group: Horse persons of the Year Karen Reyer (2002), Elsie Shollenbarger (2003), Melanie Scholer (2004), Suzanne Norton Jones (2005) and Lifetime Achievement Award winner Blair Darnell (2006). In 2006, directors decided to alternate Horse Person of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Award winners, so think about your nominee for the 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award!)

NMHC Membership

Late last year we finished a comprehensive financial report and informed all of our justly treasured members that NMHC was running at a deficit – and, not being the government, we needed a different financial plan. The response to our annual membership request was quite spectacular. NMHC runs on a calendar year, so renewals are due as soon as possible after New Year's Day.

For 2008, club and organization memberships are still set at **\$30.00**, regardless of the size of the organization. Commercial memberships are also welcomed at **\$30.00**, although there was considerable discussion at the Annual Meeting about restructuring these memberships in 2009 to include web links from our club to your business, and possible business card size ads in the NMHC newsletter.

Individual memberships have been set at \$15.00 for a number of years (each year's dues structure must be approved by the general membership at the Annual Meeting). In late fall, the Directors decided to request an increase in individual dues to **\$20.00 for 2008**. Memberships would be accepted at the \$15.00 rate until this question was put to the vote. Following the vote to raise the dues, we put the new form on the web site.

Lifetime individual memberships have been welcomed for years for a one time payment of \$200.00. Our first lifetime individual, submitting

her check approximately twenty minutes after the category was approved, was **Mary Jo Wallen**, also a life member of the Indiana Horse Council. She was joined over the next few years by **Rob Atchley, Karen Reyer, David Copher, Cathy Chapel, Val Cole, Regina Guest-Rupert** and **Nance McManus**. And now, after the straight talk about numbers and the funds appeal in the final 2007 newsletter, we have several new life members to welcome:

- Jennifer Bedsworth**
- Patty Carroll**
- Randy Cole**
- DJ Collins** of Cherry Tree Farm
- Rusty Cook** of Carousel Web Design
- Martin Cook**
- Eldon Reyer** of La Espuela Ranch
- Ann Mulhern Waller** of Mulhern Advertising

To all those who stepped up to double our roster of lifetime members – Thanks! One person actually said it was just to help the finances.

Here's the bottom line on the membership request. The response was magnificent. In 2007, year end memberships totaled: **133** individuals, **48** Club and Commercial, and of course our eight lifetime individuals. As of March 15, 2008, we had received memberships from **82** Individuals, **63** Clubs and Commercial, and of course the new **8** lifetime individual members. Several individuals "upgraded" to a commercial or a lifetime membership, one family joined with all three of their businesses, and two joined both as individuals and as businesses. We have clubs renewing that have not been able to for a year or more – it is very heartening.

One more pleasant surprise was the number of straight donations sent back with memberships. They now far exceed the line item in the tentative budget the Board studied late last Fall. It has been pleasant to pay for American Horse Council dues, the club liability policy and the new stack of liability signs without worrying about falling below the bank's minimum balance (allowing them to impose a large and irritating service charge). And we have been able to reimburse Directors for all the items they "carried" for us in 2007.





Along those lines, we thank longtime member and now retired (as much as any of us involved with





horses can retire) instructor **Dianne Fay** for her article about the Council and its need for members, *“Who’s Taking Care of Business – Your Business”* published by Catherine Logan-Carrillo in the February 2008 issue of **The Horsemen’s Voice**. Catherine is the third owner, publisher and editor of the “Voice” since Sallie Pennybacker created it as an NMHC newsletter over 25 years ago. The magazine’s success (www.HorsemensVoice.com) has surely contributed to the fact that we now enjoy other monthly publications devoted to NM and Southwest horse issues.

Today’s Horse Trader is published monthly by David and Yvonne Lewiecki of Design Associates Inc., at www.todayshorsetrader.com. **Hoofprints** is owned and published monthly by Karri Sauve. Hoofprints has no web site, but email may be sent to hoofprintspublication@hotmail.com. And, for special interests, the rodeo, roping and barrel racing news and schedules are covered by **The All-Around**, published by Western Sports Publishing. The web site is www.wspubs.com. Racing enthusiasts can order the **New Mexico Horse Breeder** at www.nmhorsebreeders.com.


Hey, Kids, We’ve Got A Barn!

Let’s Put On A Show!

May 3, Saturday, Is the Day

to see Horses In Action!

Many of you have asked about this year’s Horse Fair. The Horse Fair Task Force has been struggling with last year’s big loss (the free admission didn’t work out after all) and their vision for a new and better event. The members of the task force have made some decisions and produced some guidelines – and the verdict, late last year, was that the time was simply too short to produce a full blown Horse Fair, with clinicians, vendors and sponsors.

Unfortunately, our date (the first weekend in May) is very much desired. Two other organizations have requests on file in the Expo office, and once lost, we won’t get it back. The horse show facilities at Expo NM, although we all grumble about the aging infrastructure and the cost and the parking fees, are what we have until Governor

Richardson gets his new Equestrian Center built south of Albuquerque. We can’t say we’re giving it up for 2008, and then decide we want it back.

So, as a place holder, a small committee is putting together a one day event to introduce the admiring (and paying) public to see our horses show off. We envision a fast paced series of demonstrations and “acts” to introduce our beautiful breeds and what we do with them. It will be Saturday only, and we have traded with the Quarter Horses so we can use the Horse Arena. It’s more conducive to creating energy and, it is hoped, an enthusiastic audience. (Quarter Horses, Paints, Pintos and Palominos will be showing in the Dairy Barn – hey, demo material!) (And this will be one week prior to the big Zia Arabian Show, two weeks before the Miniature Horse Spring Fiesta, three weeks in front of the Horses Unlimited Dressage Challenge - and right after that are several large Hunter Jumper shows. What an opportunity to publicize them!

We will set up **tables** in the front, or south end of the Horse Arena so our member clubs and those who are in the performances can meet the public and hand out materials. We can’t provide much space for **vendors**, but perhaps we could set up one or two general purpose businesses. And there will be a **silent auction** with the items set up in, and in front of, the trophy cases.

Children will be welcomed and we will have things for them to touch, feel and do. Obviously there are several **volunteer** opportunities. Many of you have said you can’t commit a large amount of time – you want to ride! – but we would love to have you give an hour or so on that Saturday. We will need admissions people at the gate, helpers for the silent auction, a paddock person and perhaps some people to help with setups. And we will all be ambassadors for horses, for the Council, and for our clubs and interests. There will be two serious (although short) presentations: one will show and tell just what is involved in horse ownership, and one will present the horse rescue groups in the state. We have a few “demos” committed and hope for the full day’s worth when this newsletter and separate letters are sent. We have a web site devoted to the new Mexico horse fair, and we can soon use it for your pictures, publicity and the schedule for the event.





Due to last year's loss, the **budget** for the event is very, very slim and the bulk will be spent on publicizing "Horses In Action" to the non-horse world. We have some good advice on how to squeeze the pennies for maximum return, and if you want to volunteer before the event we will soon have some tasks available. Meanwhile, if you want to shine AT the event, contact any or all of us: Val Cole, valcole@flash.net, Lori Walton, Lori@WaltonRanch.com, or Rusty Cook, RustyCook4412@msn.com. Since we are all in and out of town, better get to all of us. Or perhaps we will find you. Write that copy, take those pictures, make that costume, teach your horse (mule, donkey) a new trick!

Of course Expo will charge a parking fee of \$4.00 per car (one reason why we tried free admission last year). With our big deficit, we naturally need to charge admission, but want to keep it affordable: 4.00 adult, \$2.00 children 6-12, and free for children under six or military ID holders in uniform. And make sure they have fun meeting horses! Just a reminder – if you have always wanted to "shape" an event to turn people on to the wonderful world of horses, this is it.



Trails and Land Use

NMHC is working on a new "Trails Design Brochure". Standards for equestrian trails are – in a word – not standard. We intend to distribute our brochure to those who may be planning a multiple use trail and are not aware of equestrian needs. We are also acquiring one of the best books in the field, **Trail Planning, Design and Development Guidelines**, published by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

By all reports, the first *Santa Fe Trails Summit* was a huge success, with lots of positive energy and outstanding cooperation from the different agencies invited. We have received preliminary

word that the *Second Annual Santa Fe Trails Summit* will be held June 13 at Santa Fe Prep School, Santa Fe. And the *State Trails Summit* or conference is in the planning stages and may be scheduled late this fall.

ELCR. The horse council has received an invitation to join the *Equestrian Land Conservation Resource*. The directors are considering it, but even with the more comfortable treasury we are waiting a bit. Meanwhile, several individuals have joined. The organization states that several hundred acres per day in the U.S. are lost permanently to horse related activities. "The loss of open land has been identified as the greatest threat to the future of all equestrian sport, recreation and industry. By educating horse people and encouraging partnerships with conservationists and other user groups at the local level, the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource is mobilizing thousands....." www.elcr.org.

Land conservation is alive and well in New Mexico as well. Earlier NMHC newsletters have described legislative initiatives and the "Land Use Planning in the Urban Envelope" symposium, and we can lend the very good book **Saving The Ranch – Conservation Easement Design In The American West**.

NMHC has submitted written comments to **Cibola National Forest** on the *Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the Sandia Ranger District*. Jackie Bouker and Maura Lewiecki attended several hearings; Jackie's horses could probably describe every foot of every trail. We hope that motorized traffic can be restricted to a limited area, as there is severe damage across much of the land. Horse owners who live in the targeted area, however, will be lobbying for less motorized use. NMHC pointed out that ATV's on narrow trails leave equestrians nowhere to get out of the way. One of our directors is also working with a chapter of Back Country Horsemen to protest trail closures (some built by horse people) in the Santa Fe National Forest.

Valles Caldera National Preserve. Managed by the Valles Caldera Trust, this 88,000 acre preserve consists of the floor of an extinct volcano (the caldera) and the surrounding mountains, and is one of the most beautiful pieces of land in New





Mexico. Congress passed the Valles Caldera Preservation Act in 2000 so the land would not be broken into parcels, and since then the Trust has attempted to incorporate many different uses along with preserving a working ranch on the property. At certain times of the year, it has been possible to pay a user fee and bring your horse up to ride for a day.

The trust held a meeting in Albuquerque Friday, March 14. Several NMHC members attended; some have been associated with the group since the Trust took a day in the NMHC State Fair booth to acquaint the public with all the Valles Caldera Preserve has to offer. Unfortunately, this year their federal appropriation has been cut to zero. The federal government must keep trying to balance the budget without more deficit financing.

The Trust board has several plans to generate some income. We were introduced to Gary and Suzie Morton, the ranchers selected to run a steer operation on the Preserve. Plans for fishing were described. A very interesting project is under way to count and band wild turkeys (last counted in the 1950's) to see if the population is large enough to add to the other hunting opportunities. And an *Environmental Assessment for Interim Camping*, along with a letter requesting public comment, was distributed. Last September, NMHC members talked with Preserve staff about possibly holding our NMHC Trail Ride at the Preserve – if camping overnight was approved in time. Summer 2008 is the “target start date” in the EA. It’s available on the web site (above), so be sure to read it and submit your comment *before April 24*; they expect to announce a decision on or about May 1. Wouldn’t it be a great place to ride?

Bike/Pedestrian/Equestrian meeting, Hobbs, NM, February 20 – 21. For our out of state members and newsletter recipients, Hobbs is way down in the southeast corner of the state, just a short walk from the Texas border. It’s pretty flat land, and I was unable to contact horse owners in advance of the meeting. However, one of the NM Department of Transportation staff stayed at the boarding stable/bed and breakfast, *En Sueno*, and persuaded the owner, Becky Cousins, to attend the public portion of the meeting. Riding opportunities are somewhat limited, but her boarders can ride in her arena and around the outside of crop circles in the area. Various

members of the BPE were able to advise Ms. Cousins on forming a trails group to advocate for projects and apply for grant money.

Another attendee was a staff assistant to Congressman Stevan Pearce. She and her team roping friends exercise their horses by loping up and down the Lovington highway. (It’s not as bad as it sounds – open, flat land with a fifteen foot dirt and grass shoulder. If freshly mowed, it is safe underfoot and the traffic count is very low).

One member of the BPE proposed that the committee become more proactive when obvious trail connections are not promoted by local governments. He is considering a project for a multiple use trail in the Santa Fe area along abandoned (now reverted to adjacent landowners) railroad right of way. He sent materials to our NMHC director Eldon Reyer, who lives in Santa Fe and is fully involved with trails. Eldon will check to see if the project has already been considered by COLTPAK, the County Open Land and Trails Planning Advisory Committee.

The next meeting of the BPE will be held in Aztec (the northwest corner of the state) on May 14-15.

Minutes and Board of Directors

NMHC Board meeting minutes will be posted as approved on the NMHC web site, so I will not recap here. However, we do have officers for 2008:

- President: Rusty Cook**
- Vice President: Eldon Reyer**
- Secretary: Nancy Searles**
- Treasurer: Val Cole**

A complete list of Board members, with contact information, is also available on the web site.

Fugitive Dust

Anywhere in New Mexico, “dust happens” quite a bit during March. The fugitive dust people, also known as the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board, call this a “high wind event” – where tumbleweeds the size of compact cars take their places on the freeway - and won’t fine you if your dust gets on your neighbor’s property. Probably.

The original proposed regulations, several years ago, imposed some really stiff requirements for fees and mitigations on horse owners. A group of





horse people worked hard in committee to insert exemptions for agriculture and small horse paddocks into the regulations for a three year period.

Revisions were issued last fall, some four years later, and the conditional exemptions did remain in place. NMHC watched the process, but was satisfied (while cautious) to wait until the final public hearing (February 12) to see if anyone objected to those exemptions. They were passed.

One group of horse owners at the hearing was able to persuade the AQCB to oblige the US Forest Service to follow stricter requirements for dust generated by users of non motorized trails. If motorized users are allowed, but reduce their speed, it could alleviate dust and certainly make it safer for equestrians.

NMHC 2008 Legislative Session

Ordinarily, the 30 day session held in even numbered years is limited to budget bills or the Governor's call. However, Senator Steve Komadina introduced one bill, one Senate memorial and one joint memorial relating to wild horses in New Mexico. SB 166 appropriated \$50,000 from the general fund to the Tourism Department to promote wild horse tourism. SM 35 and SJM 16, virtually identical, proposed a feasibility study of establishing a wild horse state park on 5,000 acres of land near Placitas, to be acquired from the BLM. None passed both houses, although SJM 16 passed the Senate, 40-0.

The NMHC has several concerns about these bills (which have been proposed before, and will surely appear again). No one can argue with saving our heritage horses, but we have again requested that Senator Komadina meet with directors and NMHC members involved with Colonial Spanish horses and mustangs.

Economics: Ethanol & Equines

Bought any Equine Senior lately? (My horse actually turns 24, some days going on 4, on March 17.) You know about the price of gasoline or diesel to run your horse's chauffeured limousine, but the demand for ethanol, plus the decline of the economy in general, has affected every corner of the horse industry. According to Alltech Biotechnology, "U.S. government mandates have



put ethanol production on the fast track, calling for the production of 37 billion gallons of the biofuel by 2017." (TheHorse.com.)

Ethanol may not be an efficient fuel for cars and trucks, may affect engines, and may evaporate and result in "shrinkage" for those who drive only a few miles a week. Corn prices may affect food for lower income people, and may induce farmers to switch hay acreage to corn; it surely affects horse owners – who can't stop purchasing feed. But it is the government flavor of the month.

Add higher feed prices to increased prices for shavings (downturn in the house building market) and "the resulting change in spending should be expected to have an effect on economic growth. In addition, nearly everything we buy is transported to its final destination, sold in stores lit by electricity, and is produced using higher cost energy." (Center for Equine Business Studies, Texas A & M University, Feb. 4, 2008) We need to be fully aware of the effect on our commitment to our equines.

NM Horse Rescue Alliance

New Mexico was well ahead of the national curve when the legislature passed, and the governor signed, a law requiring horse rescues to be inspected and certified. (There are several NMHC members that I know who will acquire the occasional horse, rehabilitate it and place it as a favor to the equine and its future welfare. The defining characteristic that makes a "horse rescue" official is that it solicits donations from the public to carry on its work.) A list of licensed horse rescues is posted on the New Mexico Livestock Board web site, www.newmexicolivestockboard.com.

Several of the licensed rescues have formed the **New Mexico Horse Rescue Alliance**. NMHC is represented at these meetings, and may soon appoint a director from the group. The alliance will be able to share and simplify forms, meet as a group with the Livestock Board to discuss seizure procedures, and link websites in different parts of the state; it already has an email group.

Neglected and Abused Horses

Unfortunately, this problem is only going to worsen as horsekeeping expenses increase (see economy, above). In the past few months,





- Five horses were abandoned by being loaded into an innocent cattle buyer's trailer at a livestock auction in Texas;
- Albuquerque area veterinarians speak about horses turned loose in the hills above Rio Rancho;
- Suzanne and Punch Jones of Tatum sent an article from the Western Livestock Journal, detailing the deaths of hundreds of BLM mustangs from lack of water and forage at Jackson Mountain in Nevada;
- Many New Mexicans have received email solicitations to feed 100 seized horses in Canada, or to adopt and ship to New Mexico 150 horses now in North Dakota.

One NMHC member says that all these stories "paint a target on each horse owner's forehead." Another, that "the problem is lots of common everyday folks who got a one and now feel really stuck." A third, "why don't we have euthanasia for horses like we do for kittens and puppies?" (We did, it was called horse slaughter.) And, "our horse society is acting like abuse victims, they keep blindly thinking it will get better".

One group working hard is the *Unwanted Horse Coalition*, with its **Own Responsibly** motto and publishes a booklet to let you know what you are getting into. It was formed after a meeting of many national organizations and is now operating under the American Horse Council. See the web site at www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org.

Where's Magic?

Here's your chance to get a **free ticket** for a horse that doesn't need hay, grain, the vet, the shoer, or a paddock. Although wooden and 18 hands tall at the tip of his forelock, he can be transported in the back of a station wagon to his eventual home, inside YOUR home. He's traveling around and sending pictures back to the NMHC website, and the first member to correctly identify his whereabouts will receive a FREE raffle ticket for the September 20 drawing. Or buy those tickets for a dollar each and benefit NMHC.



New Mexico Horse Council, Inc.	
2008 Dues Invoice	
Club Dues \$30.00 Per Calendar Year	_____
Commercial Dues \$30.00 Per Calendar Year	_____
Club/Business Name _____	_____
Address _____	_____
Contact Person _____	_____
Tel. (area code), fax _____	_____
email, web site _____	_____
Individual Dues \$20.00 per calendar year	_____
Lifetime Individual Dues \$200.00 (one time payment)	_____
Address _____	_____
Telephone (area code) _____	_____
email _____	_____
Donation to Horse Council _____	_____
\$100 Ranchers Club Certificate chances @ \$20 each _____	_____
Raffle tickets for "Magic Horse" sculpture @ \$1 each _____	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED (Thank you!) _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if you wish to receive newsletters as a pdf attachment to email <input type="checkbox"/> Check this box if you wish to be included on a "hot issues" email list	
Mail to: NM Horse Council, P. O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, NM 87184 The New Mexico Horse Council's federal tax status is 501 (c) 4.	

