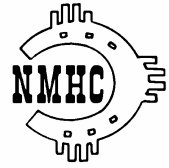


**New Mexico Horse Council**  
**P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184**



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**SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER 2007**

[p.73] “Paddy on top of a pony, bouncing round inexpertly and hanging on to the mane with both hands, was the human equivalent of the Cheshire cat – a smile wearing a child”. [p. 238] “A horse is a living creature. It has a value quite apart from what someone might be prepared to pay for it. An animal’s life is cheap, but not to the animal – it’s the only one it has. If you want them, you owe it to them – or perhaps not even to them, but to whoever’s keeping score – that there’s something in it for them. You look after them. You treat them decently.” – *Requiem For A Dealer*, Jo Bannister, St. Martin’s Minotaur, 2006.

**Calendar 2008**

Jan 15, Tuesday 2008 Legislative session begins at noon. [www.legis.state.nm.us](http://www.legis.state.nm.us)

Jan. 19, Saturday: **Annual Meeting of the Membership**, Review! Election of Directors! Awards and Recognitions! **Quarters Restaurant**, 3700 Ellison Drive NW

Jan. 30, Wednesday: Deadline for introduction of legislation.

Feb. 4, Monday: NMHC Board of Directors meeting, Rusty Cook’s, 3607 Sunstar Loop SW, 7:00 PM. Open to all.

Feb. 14, Thursday: Legislative session ends, noon.

March 3, Monday: NMHC Board of Directors meeting, Maura Lewiecki’s, 2510 Elfego Road NW, 7:00 PM. Open to all

**Annual Meeting**

If you are a 2007 Individual or Life member of the New Mexico Horse Council, or the designated contact for a commercial member or a club, you should be receiving this notice through the mail – even if you asked for electronic delivery.

The Bylaws require that membership meeting notices be mailed, and at least thirty days in advance in the case of the Annual Meeting.

It’s an important meeting, and the next year will be pivotal for the Council. The expenses are exceeding the income. We have had financial saviors in the past. Sallie and Ed Pennybacker

assembled a group at the Barcelona Court many years ago for a “Rescue Party” and the savings account is still called the Rescue Party Account. The Monty Roberts visit in 1998, designating the NMHC as the “VIP beneficiary”, was a real bump. However, we have presented several events that have lost money, and, in spite of our wonderful sponsors and volunteers, have never “turned the corner” with the Horse Fair to put it reliably in the black. We ask that you rejoin the Council now, and begin making it a great year by coming to the Annual Meeting. Here’s the official notice:

**THE 2007 ANNUAL MEETING  
 OF THE NEW MEXICO HORSE  
 COUNCIL**

**WILL BE HELD  
 JANUARY 19, 2008**

**Quarters BBQ Restaurant  
 3700 Ellison Drive NW  
 Albuquerque 87114**

**Food served after 6 PM  
 Meeting begins at 7 PM  
 \$16.00 per person  
 Door Prizes! Fun!  
 Must RSVP 345-8959  
 or [valcole@flash.net](mailto:valcole@flash.net)**



**Arrive shortly after six pm to begin with great appetizers (zucchini, cheese, mushrooms) – then platters of pork and beef ribs, links, chicken. But that’s not all! Enjoy potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, fries, onion rings, toast and soft drinks. All for just \$16.00 per person and that also includes tax and gratuity!**

**If you are over 21, you may purchase beer or wine from your server. You may pay NMHC for your dinners at The Quarters, but we have to know in advance that you are coming. Maura has lots of great door prizes! Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting, but only NMHC members may vote.**

President Rusty Cook will outline the Council’s activities in 2007, a very busy year. At that point, we need Membership approval for the dues structure for 2008 – and the directors will request that Individual Dues be raised from \$15 to \$20. Then we will go ahead to election of Board members (at the February Board meeting, the Directors will elect the officers for 2008). The term is three years, and we have Board positions to be filled for partial terms as well. The Board directs the Council’s activities, but also has “hands on” involvement. A time commitment is necessary, along with all the ideas. We also are lucky to have many members who help on one specific project – and others who contribute dues but have no time. All are welcome!

We would particularly like to see those involved in other horse organizations lending some expertise to the NMHC Board. We need participation!

Logistics: You must be a current NMHC member to serve on the Board. We’ll try to arrange good weather for this dinner, because after the elections we get to the fun part - recognizing the people who have gone the extra miles for the Council with verbal recognition and Certificates of Appreciation. And we’ll present the Horse Person of the Year award to finish up the evening.

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**Membership**

NMHC’s membership year is the same as the calendar. Currently, Individual dues are \$15.00; Club or Organization dues \$30.00; Commercial or Business Dues \$30.00; Lifetime individual membership is \$200.00. If you are not one of our life members (Rob Atchley, Val Cole, Rusty Cook, David Copher, Regina Guest-Rupert, Nance McManus, Karen Reyer or Mary Jo Wallen), please consider paying your 2008 dues immediately, before mid-January. The Board intends to request that individual dues be increased to \$20.00 at the annual meeting.

The tentative budget projects quite a shortfall, but a dues increase (with no loss of members) would help. Other monetary help could include a donation – any amount over and above your dues would be appreciated. Where does the money go? We certainly don’t pay anyone, or reimburse any volunteer work. In the budget, the money goes to





(1) member communications – newsletters and postage, postcards, telephone and website; (2) Club Liability Insurance – which covers the Horse Fair, State Fair booth, trail ride, flea market and Board meetings; (3) American Horse Council Dues; (4) Office Supplies, brochure printing , PO Box, annual state fees; (5) Projects, such as the state fair tent and booth or the trail ride; (6) Awards. We propose a new spending category – advertising - to advertise the benefits of a membership in the Council and the work the Council does. This could take the form of actual ads in the magazines The Horsemen’s Voice, Today’s Horse Trader or Hoofprints, or ads in club member show premiums. We are extremely lucky that some Council members are willing to donate their gas, time, and purchases, but it would be much better if NMHC could reimburse all this.

And the income? In spite of outreach efforts, the individual membership roster has grown only slightly and the club and commercial list has dropped. We need to increase both categories, and a dramatic boost in clubs and businesses would be very welcome. In other income, that from the annual flea market (NMHC only charges a small booth rental) is minor; we distribute brochures at no cost; the liability signs and Really Big Coloring Books show a very small profit. We badly need fundraisers, and here are two:

**Have a Fancy Dinner!** You can be the proud owner of a **\$100.00 Gift Certificate to the Rancher’s Club** at the Hilton Hotel in Albuquerque. This is not your jeans and flipflops type of place, but one of the closest things to a many-star restaurant in Albuquerque.

The Rancher’s Club claims it is *“The only authentic grill in New Mexico that prepares the food on a Gridiron over a variety of aromatic wood embers such as mesquite, hickory, sassafras and apple. This grilling method imparts a unique and unusual flavor to the ample portions of meat, seafood, poultry and game....”* And, of course, since ranch horses have been handling cattle in New Mexico since the sixteenth century, it fits right in with the horse tradition.

We have two - one hundred dollar certificates, and chances only cost **\$20.00 each**. We will pull

the first winner at the Annual Meeting on January 19, and the second winner at the Horse Fair event on May 3. All chances sold will stay “in the pot” for the second drawing – except for the winner. You know that mathematically you have a real opportunity here! You need not be present to win, and for those who have heard how great the restaurant is – but perhaps a little pricey – here is your opportunity.

**Win a Raffle!** Remember “Magic”, the six foot tall wooden sculpture donated to the Council by David Copher? Magic is ready for a new owner, and again ready to earn some funds for the Council. What a nice horse. Tickets to win “Magic” are just **\$1.00 each** and will be sold beginning now. “Magic” will come to the Annual Meeting, the Horse Fair Event and the State Fair Booth, and the winning ticket will be picked at the end of the State Fair. Remember, “Magic” is an indoor horse – never eats, needs veterinary care or shoeing, always well turned out. See the pictures on the NMHC web site, and buy lots of tickets from any Board member.

**Structure  
AHC, SHCAC, NMHC**

At the national level, the *American Horse Council (AHC)* was formed in 1969 as the national legislative representative for the horse industry. It works daily to represent equine interests and opportunities. From its website, [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org), the staff “promotes and protects the industry by communicating with Congress, federal agencies, the media and the industry on behalf of all horse related interests each and every day.” The AHC is supported by its members, some of which are very large organizations (AQHA, the Jockey Club); some are smaller (state horse councils, others). Individual members are valued as well. We have a link or the NMHC website to the AHC, where membership forms can be downloaded. The AHC communicates often with the state horse councils, with press releases about congressional or regulatory actions, and advice on making our opinions known in a timely manner. Most recently, we have received:

Press Release: Preserving our Equine Heritage on Public Lands Act Introduced in Senate





Press Release: [American Horse Council Reminds Horse Industry to Participate in 2007 USDA Census of Agriculture](#)

Press Release: [American Horse Council's Fall Issues Forum Tackles Major Industry Concerns](#)

Other reminders to State Horse Councils include: The text of the AHC comments to the USDA on Contagious Equine Metritis, information on a USDA proposal to tighten commercial horse transport rules, and multiple memos concerning the shifting sands of Congressional efforts with immigration and the Farm Bill.

### More on the AHC Fall Issues Forum

Remember when they built classrooms without windows so students would concentrate on the lessons? The Fall Issues Forum was held Friday before the first session of the SHCAC. Imagine holding the interest – even of more than 100 horse industry professionals and enthusiasts - when the view out the huge fourth floor window was the homestretch and infield of the Keeneland Race Track.

Nick Nicholson, manager of Keeneland, welcomed the participants and spoke of the track and management efforts to work with the county and preserve the “parklike” atmosphere of the area. Keeneland also has replaced its racing surface with Polytrack, much reducing breakdowns and fatalities. The theme of the beautiful surroundings of horse farms and bluegrass pastures was highlighted by the first presentation.

**Preserving Our Land and Use: Conservation Easements.** Margaret Graves of the Bluegrass Conservancy spoke on various programs, their usefulness and costs. The Lexington-Fayette County Purchase of Development Rights (PDR), is the first of its kind in Kentucky. Beginning in 1958 with an “urban service boundary” to limit development to areas served by sanitary sewers, the impetus continued with an ordinance raising the minimum lot size in Fayette County from 10 to 40 acres. The “Purchase of Development Rights” program was created in 2000 and prioritizes land offered by farmers, purchasing the most critical with the small amount of available funds. Some development rights are donated as



well. More details can be found on their web site, [www.lfucg.com/pdr](http://www.lfucg.com/pdr).

This was followed by “Own Responsibly – Spread the Word” – Update from the Unwanted Horse Coalition (UHC). Katy Carter of AHC, Kristin Hix of the Jockey Club and Sally Baker of the AAEP presented the latest information, including the new “Own Responsibly” booklet, which is available at the UHC website. UHC does not provide funds to rescue or maintain unwanted horses; it was formed to explore options and educate owners, breeders and potential owners. They reminded participants that every horse once had an owner – and hoped to change owner attitudes to see continued involvement once the horse is no longer yours. To that end, produce a useful animal – don’t use it up! and think ahead to where it goes when you no longer have it. They have produced some educational tools in addition to the “Own Responsibly” booklet. Filler ads for newsletters and Public Service announcements for radio are available at the UHC website, and NMHC also has a link directly to that site, [www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org](http://www.unwantedhorsecoalition.org).

A review of **Federal Legislation and Regulations affecting the Horse Industry** was given by AHC President Jay Hickey. Mr. Hickey focused on efforts that are currently being made to offer the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security Act of 2007, better known as AgJOBS, as an amendment to the Farm Bill or any other legislation to be considered by the Senate. AgJOBS (S.340) is a comprehensive solution to many of the horse industry’s immigration problems with respect to H-2A workers at horse breeding farms and ranches. He also discussed:

- Farm bill provisions that would make horses eligible for federal emergency assistance;
- The Equine Equity Act, which includes favorable tax changes for horses;
- “Preserving our Equine Heritage on Public Lands Act”.

**“Keeping the IRS At Bay: Federal Tax Laws for Horse Owners”.** Douglas Romaine of Stoll Keenon Ogden took an in-depth look at (1) Section 183 – Hobby Losses: an Overview and Update; (2) Passive Losses for Horse Owners; and (3) US Tax Considerations for Foreign Horse Owners. He reminded those in horse-related





businesses that, all horse activities being “tax-flavored”, a strong business model is an absolute necessity. He advised what may trigger an audit, and the factors that tax courts usually, but not always, look at. There is little case law on passive tax issues since the elimination of the aggressive tax shelters of the 1980’s, so it pays to follow all the usual rules (record keeping, et cetera) and choose a tax lawyer expert in your field and with a history of successful cases in tax courts. For instance, the appeals process is more conducive to negotiation – and most of his cases are litigated in tax court, because you do not need to pay the assessed taxes to have the cases heard.

**“The ‘Ins and Outs’ of Movement: Import/Export Issues for Horse Owners”.** Dr. Andrea (Andy) Morgan of the USDA explained import/export rules and their importance. Copies are available at the AHC website. Horses are *the* animals that travel globally – competition animals, race horses, breeding stallions and mares, horse sales. 800 – 900 animals arriving in the US for the World Equestrian Games in 2010 would overwhelm the three US quarantine facilities, and she described recent discussion about public and private quarantine facilities. She reviewed the catastrophic situation in Australia, where the entire horse industry totally shut down movement after an outbreak of equine influenza.

**“The Sleeping Giant: An Update on Equine Piroplasmiasis”.** Dr. Kent Fowler, DVM, the chief of the Animal Health Branch of the California Department of Agriculture, reviewed history of equine piroplasmiasis, currently classified as a “foreign animal disease”. Horse owners in locations where EP is endemic (Europe, Africa, Asia, South and Central America) often do not see it as an unmanageable problem, while countries free of EP (Australia, the US, Canada, England and Ireland) want it to be kept out. Dr. Fowler explained how EP is transmitted by ticks and has been shown to have a 20% fatality rate among equines. He described the various measures the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and others – state regulations vary – are taking to make sure EP does not become endemic to the United States.

**“Do You Have a Match: Immigration Issues Facing The Horse Industry”:** Charles Baesler of Stoll Keenon Ogden spoke on the necessity of the

horse industry being able to hire legal alien workers. Relying on H-2A and H-2B quotas is complicated and time consuming, and the quotas are often filled early before many workers are needed. Mr. Baesler spoke about the employers’ duties to check paperwork, verify paperwork, but possibly still face legal problems. For instance, when social security numbers submitted do not match the names and descriptions, employers often get a “no-match” letter stating that fact, but also saying “DO NOT TERMINATE” or the employer may be charged with discrimination. He said the current enforcement atmosphere, run by the ICE (Immigrations Customs Enforcement), the DOL (Department of Labor) and the OSC (Office of Special Counsel) has its roots in the reluctance of some legislators to pass new immigration regulations until these offices can prove that existing ones are being enforced. Although the Immigration Service, in his words, is “uneven, undisciplined and unforthcoming”, employers must not knowingly employ illegals; the consequences can be serious fines and prison terms. Needed: clarity and consistency.

As stated above, many of these presentations can be downloaded from the AHC website, [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org). Other resources can be purchased as well.

One is the AHC’s *Annual Horse Industry Directory*, a real bargain at \$25. All breed registries, Equine Welfare organizations, Equine Veterinary Schools, Show and Sport Organizations, Trails Organizations, State Horse Councils are listed – and that is just the beginning.

### **State Horse Councils Advisory Committee**

The directory lists 49 organizations that function as state horse councils. Some states have none, and some more than one. All “flavors” exist. New York State Horse Council has thousands of members and dozens of committees; other states (NM) are perking along with a limited number of committed volunteers and negligible budgets. All are working for “the generic horse”, and their work is showcased at the semi-annual meetings of the *State Horse Councils Advisory Committee*, the only standing committee of the AHC with its own web site, [www.statehorsecouncils.org](http://www.statehorsecouncils.org).

Over the years, this committee (of all state horse councils) has evolved from twice-a-year





networking to an ongoing structure with a mission, a vision, and fundamental objectives. It has produced a brochure describing its goals and objectives. What does the SHCAC do?

- Provides national leadership for state horse councils and a forum to network.
- Influences legislation and policy through state horse councils at the grassroots level by providing access to all segments of the industry including sport, racing, and pleasure horse enthusiasts and their support industries.
- Facilitates the exchange of information between the AHC, state horse councils, and the industry they serve.

Each year the committee meets in conjunction with the AHC Annual meeting in Washington in the spring or early summer, and on the first weekend of November in a host state. All SHCAC meetings are open. The *Kentucky Horse Council* hosted the recent meeting in Lexington.

**SHCAC Friday Evening Session:** Although in the past the Friday evening meeting has consisted of subcommittee sessions, in 2007 Dave Howell, chair, proposed a change of format. Therefore, the working reception began with short presentation by the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource reminding delegates that 250 acres per day were being lost to recreational use, and urging states and individuals to join and participate in the ELCR. Jay Hickey, President of the American Horse Council then presented a review of issues affecting federal legislation and regulation: Immigration, AgJobs, the Unwanted Horse Coalition, Preserving Equine Heritage on Public Lands, and Horse Slaughter. (Although the AHC is neutral on horse slaughter, due to division in the membership, it does track federal developments.)

Dave Howell then spoke of his vision for the future, that Councils form alliances with national organizations and individuals to further “the horse”, our purpose. This would require that our communications reach a necessary new level. For instance, he described a meeting between officials of the Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky horse councils with Wayne Pacelle of the Humane Society of the United States at the occasion of the opening of a major new horse rescue. Horse Council representatives tried to get Pacelle to commit to actually funding rescue of some



neglected horses but he categorically refused. Howell said this is one reason for the proposed alliances and coalitions – to come up with a workable plan and solicit resources for actually helping animals, not just running publicity campaigns and targeting politicians. Howell said that HSUS is making us, horse groups and horse owners, look terrible – and we are not!

He then invited several delegates to speak of innovative plans or programs. Bev Raymond of the Maryland Horse Council is an inspector for the Agriculture department. The MHC has asked to add horse rescues to state licensing, which already includes stables and instructors. The Unwanted Horse Coalition brochure is a good one, but doesn’t reach all the necessary people. Jean Ligon of the Michigan Horse Council spoke about a huge Equine Conference planned for the state in December; she chairs the environmental and zoning subcommittee. Zoning is extremely important; in MI, 1/3 of horse owners live on fewer than five acres, 1/3 on five to ten acre parcels, and 1/3 on parcels larger than ten acres. A new push uses horse manure for energy production; also, a “manure soup” is created, dried, and sold as superior fertilizer. Carcass disposal is a major problem. The Michigan Horse Council also sponsors horse programs on public television.

Ginny Grulke of the Kentucky Horse Council talked about national bad publicity about horses running loose on mountain land last year. As it turned out, this has always been done; owners turn animals loose over the winter and pick them up again when the weather warms. However, now abandoned horses are probably out there as well. KHC has formed an “Equine Safety Net” for those with sudden problems such as loss of a job or a medical crisis. Upon application, KHC will grant support to two horses for up to thirty days. The owners must verify the problem, and verify (with receipts for hay, shoeing, etc.) that they have previously cared well for their horses. There have been five valid applicants since Spring, and at least one breed organization, in a “ripple effect”, has formed a similar program.

Matt Bartlett of the Utah Horse Council says even in Utah the wolf is chewing at the door with urban sprawl. They are exploring “life settlement” insurance policies for landowners – land rich, cash





poor can use the money to pay estate taxes, necessary to keep land intact. Also, they have studied PETA and HSUS and intend to use their methods (mass mailings, targeted mailings, repeated mailings) – NOT their philosophy - for fundraising.

Dave Howell described the Land Use Summit in Indiana, and recommended [www.envirohorse.com](http://www.envirohorse.com) for education on invasive species. And Glen Eaton of the Minnesota Horse Expo reminded all that Horse Expos are where you educate the public. The session adjourned at 7:30 so participants could seek dinner.

**SHCAC Saturday Educational Session:** The day was managed by the host, Kentucky Horse Council, and the subject was Facilities. Attendees boarded a bus (Bluegrass Tours, sponsored by HOK architectural firm, which is designing the New Mexico Equestrian Center) at 8:30 AM for a busy day. This was structured by Madelyn Millard of KHC, who in a previous life was a tour guide. She absolutely knew her facts about Kentucky and horses. Did you know that KY is third in automobile production and fifth in cattle production?

The first stop was KEENELAND RACE TRACK, for a talk on the history of the track, its famous horses, and its decision to switch to Polytrack while horses breezed and worked in front of the group. Next, we visited KESMARC, a rehabilitation facility. Their hyperbaric chamber treated Cats Don't Dance, the Saddlebred injected with cobra venom in a still unsolved crime, successfully returning him to the show ring. We also toured the lap pool, Aquatred, pen walker, light therapy stall, and the barns. The philosophy is no longer "keep them in the stall for six months and see what happens" for an injured horse. Each resident horse has its own consulting veterinarian in addition to the Kesmarc veterinarians and support staff. We lunched at Railheads restaurant (lunch sponsored by Primedia, publishers of Equus, Blood Horse and other magazines).

Then the bus departed for THREE CHIMNEYS FARM, where assistant manager Shane Glass introduced us to Smarty Jones, Point Given and others. He said it was a pleasure to host a group where he did not have to explain that stallions love finger food! During the season, the stallions



breed three times a day, at 9 AM, 2 PM and 5 PM. At the beginning, they push on the front of the stalls; towards the end, they are not so eager. He showed us the Seattle Slew statue and the stallion graveyard, where the recently lost Slew 'O Gold had flowers but not yet a headstone. Then, we visited ROOD & RIDDLE EQUINE HOSPITAL, recently named "Official Veterinary Hospital" for the 2010 World Equestrian Games. No surgeries except emergencies were done on the weekends, and the guide actually apologized – we were all glad no injured horse came in! Their equipment is all dazzling, as are their programs for veterinary students, horse owners and lay people. Following Rood & Riddle, we visited the COLDSTREAM RESEARCH FARM, site of the University of Kentucky Farm Program. Dr. Bob Coleman gave a stirring lecture on intensive grazing, arena surfaces and "pervious concrete" and its uses in high traffic areas, wash racks and so forth. The university is performing many innovative experiments expected to help neighboring farmers and horse owners.

Following the session, the bus returned to the hotel for a short break before heading to the KENTUCKY HORSE PARK, the "national horse center" and site selected for the 2010 World Equestrian Games. After a bus tour of the Park, including a visit to the site of the climate controlled indoor arena (now under construction), we were turned loose for self guided tours of the Museum, and then gathered for dinner. Host John Nicholson welcomed us warmly, saying that the state horse councils and the SHCAC were very valued and could make incalculable contributions for the good of the horse. Apologizing that the gift shop was "off limits" due to another private party, he presented everyone with a KHP bandanna which would be good for free admission Sunday after the SHCAC business meeting. The dinner followed, with entertainment from a very good bluegrass group, Southern Sun.

KHC was spectacularly successful in obtaining sponsors for the entire weekend meeting, and this dinner was sponsored by the League of Agricultural and Equine Centers, an organization that promotes and supports management personnel and maintenance procedures at agricultural and equine facilities. Their "Footing Academy" offered each January is always filled.





All in all, the Kentucky Horse Council hosted a stupendous program. Since they will be going all out for the World Equestrian Games in 2010, hosting the SHCAC was good practice.

**SHCAC Sunday Business Meeting.** Before beginning the meeting, delegates saw a rousing DVD produced to promote the Aachen World Equestrian Games. We signed up to have KHC send us copies; a similar DVD will be produced for the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, to be held at the Kentucky Horse Park, Sept. 25 to October 10, 2010. Eight events – Show Jumping, Dressage, Eventing, Driving, Endurance, Vaulting, Reining and Para-Equestrian will take place. It is the first time the World Equestrian Games have taken place in the United States. Keep track of happenings at the official web site, [www.FEIGames2010.org](http://www.FEIGames2010.org).

The meeting was called to order by chairman Dave Howell at 8:30. Eighteen Councils, approximately fifty people, were present, along with Diane Leshner of Equisure. Vendors also were set up at the meeting. After a review of the agenda, Dave presented a short financial report from Kathie Luedeke of the American Horse Council. The SHCAC is the only standing committee of the AHC with its own line item, which took years to be approved (the other committees are differently structured). Dave urged everyone to join the AHC as individual members, and to contribute if possible to the PAC. Last year, the SHCAC balance was \$15,365, of which \$5000 was spent to purchase a two year membership in the Unwanted Horse Coalition. Income since then has been approximately \$12,000, but a great part of that income is dedicated to this meeting in Kentucky.

At Dave Howell's request, Val Cole presented a short timeline of the SHCC (now the SHCAC) and reviewed the SHCAC Strategic Plan, finalized in 2000.

**Chairman's Report:** He sees the responsibilities of the chair as: [1] gathering information supplied by state horse councils; [2] keeping fully involved with AHC; [3] getting information out to state councils by communicating monthly (to that end, a Yahoo group will be set up), and generally making sure lines are open. He said the State Horse Councils are on the front line, a lightning



rod for pressure groups. Howell proposed that the committee structure be maintained by email and conference calls, and that the state reports be available on line rather than presented at the meeting.

In discussion of the Chairman's Report, the feeling of the meeting was that the breakout sessions should be retained on Friday evening at the November meeting. Not everything can be done by email or conference calls; face-to-face interaction is necessary. However, the group approved of the proposed "cover sheet", a form that each council would be sent to prepare as the front page of its state report. Be sure state council websites are linked to SHCAC.

Ken Carpenter reminded us that the Recreation (sub) Committee is a bit different, as he represents the SHCAC on the American Horse Council's Recreation Committee. And Ken has a group as well for discussion of trails issues.

**Old Business.** [1] Renewal of membership in the Unwanted Horse Coalition. Ann Swinker, SHCAC representative to the UHC, reported that they have restructured the handout; produced a manual for horse owners and prospective horse owners, produced public service announcement and "filler paragraphs" for newsletters; and are assembling a list of horse rescues in the United States, including such details as "filled" and "waiting lists". With closures of all processing plants, there will be problems with feral or abandoned horses. One farm bureau suggested forcing microchips on all horses, so owners of abandoned horses could be traced. NAIS is NOT the answer for the unwanted horse. Dr. Swinker said Pennsylvania is conducting a survey on attitudes towards NAIS, and the preliminary proportions (50% for, 50% against) are remaining constant as more results come in. Of the survey participants, 12% have registered their premises, 25% have microchipped horses, 25% have microchipped other pets.

[2] 2008 Fall Meeting. The Minnesota Horse Council will host this meeting the first weekend in November. It will be at the Ramada Inn, 10 minutes from the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport, and the Council has blocked a room rate of \$89 for a double room. It is right next to the Mall of America ("but there is a fence





between”). Dave Howell will approach AHC to see if they want to again have a Fall issues forum.

Under “New Business”, we considered sites for the 2009 and 2010 November meetings. Pennsylvania and Florida are in discussions and will probably take these two meetings. In discussion, we decided not to try to second guess the impact of the World Equestrian Games on attendance at or location of the meeting. Delegates discussed alternating eastern and western sites, but the bottom line is that a Horse Council has to offer to host. Utah may be interested in 2011. (For those who may have forgotten, the New Mexico Horse Council hosted this meeting in 1999.)

Finally, we filled open positions on the Executive Committee. For 2008:

Chair: Dave Howell, (IN)  
 Past Chair: Val Cole (NM)  
 Vice Chair: Madelyn Millard (KY)  
 Secretary: Matt Bartlett (UT)  
 Parliamentarian: Buster Black (GA)

A discussion followed on Bylaws for the SHCAC. One last alert for attendees: One Horse Fair reported that an animal rights group approached and threatened their sponsors with publicity and boycotts if they did not remove themselves from this “cruel event”. Most Horse Fair sponsors decided to remain, but some did pull out. The meeting adjourned at noon, and those with time took their presentation bandannas and returned to the Kentucky Horse Park.

### **New Mexico Horse Council**

State horse councils are nonprofit organizations representing the horse industry within a state. They support and promote the horse and horse related activities through education and grass roots lobbying on a state and local level. They try to represent all breeds and riding disciplines, and also the recreational segment of the horse industry. They need the support of horse owners, the industries that supply horse owners, and the services that horse owners and riders depend on. Besides owners, NMHC needs memberships from trainers, equine veterinarians, tack and supply shops, hay and feed producers, boarding stables, commercial riding stables, outfitters, farriers, show and event management. Membership equals



clout! And what do our members get in return? Individuals have the backing of the state council when necessary, and we never release our individual member mailing list. (The names are available, but not the contact information.) Club and commercial members receive a listing on the web site and a listing in one newsletter per year (this one). The NMHC now is contacted by many state and county organizations to participate in planning; we find other opportunities to participate as well.

One potential member complained in a telephone call this year that “the New Mexico Horse Council doesn’t do anything in trails or land use planning”. We generated a list:

- Los Ranchos Trails
- 4<sup>th</sup> Street Corridor Study
- North Valley Area Plan
- Los Poblanos Field Management Plan
- East Mountain Trails Plan
- East Mountain Open Space Plan
- Bachechi Open Space meetings
- Alameda Boulevard Trail Extension
- Ditches With Trails
- Greater Albuquerque Recreational Trails Committee
- Petroglyph Management Plan
- Second Street North Corridor Plan
- Balloon Fiesta Park Plan
- Montano Bridge Trails Accommodations (and efforts to make these safer)
- Forest Service Motorized Initiatives
- Otero Mesa meetings
- Nature Center Management Plan
- La Boca Negra Horsemen’s Complex
- Rio Grande Valley State Park
- State Trails Advisory Committee
- Governor’s Bicycle, Pedestrian & Equestrian Committee
- Mid Rio Council of Governments 2030 Transportation Plan
- Agriculture in the Urban Envelope
- New Mexico’s Land, Wildlife and Agriculture Set-Aside Fund
- Santa Fe Trails Summit (meetings now under way for a Statewide Trails Summit)
- Albuquerque Trails and Bikeways Master Plan
- Lobbying to create Trails Planner position





## Expo NM, NM State Fair

Members of the Council have ongoing involvement with Expo NM and the horse facilities at the State Fairgrounds. In fact, we hope to meet soon with the new director, Judith Espinosa. Ms. Espinosa currently serves as Chief of Staff to Lt. Governor Diane Denish. She has served as the Secretary of the Environment under Governor Bruce King and as Secretary of Transportation under Governor Toney Anaya. She was also the director of the Alliance for Transportation Research Institute for more than a decade. The NM State Fair and Expo NM will be a good new challenge, with conflicting interests wanting either improvements or a total relocation.

## State Fair Tent and Booth

For several years, a major educational outreach for the Council has been the tent and stall in front of the Horse Arena during the State Fair. Different horse shows are held in the arena every day during the Fair, beginning with Hunters and Jumpers the first weekend and ending seventeen days later with Arabians, Half Arabians, Saddlebreds, and Hackney Ponies. Since over a half million people attend the Fair every year, this is an unparalleled opportunity to attract them to the horse world. In 2007, NMHC director Jan Henfling put the schedule together, with several hundred e-mails and phone calls. The Horse Council rents the tent, Charlie Poore of Quickstalls loaned the stall, and Expo provided the grassy area. Clubs and breeds are invited to exhibit and provided with Fair passes and a trailer pass. NMHC directors try to join the volunteers with the horse each day.

Horses are magnets. When an animal was in the booth (horse, mule, donkey, even hound puppies) the crowds came. When the stall was empty, the area stayed empty as well. We had several different breeds, including one of the very few American Cream draft horses in New Mexico. There was an Appaloosa who was a licker, and must have happily licked the hands of several hundred children. The miniature horses were in the stall, and also on the concrete, calm as little cucumbers. Members of the Single Action Shooting Society came in costume several days. It was worth the effort to get their shootin' irons

approved. In fact, all the effort is worthwhile – IF a horse is there. Thanks to all the people who brought horses, sat at the tables, met people, handed out literature. David Whelchel made new signs and a great new banner. Lois Seibel and the office staff were particularly helpful with the logistics, and Alison Haxton with the space.

## 2008 Horse Fair

Sadly, the 2007 Horse Fair ended up seriously in the red, although again those attending seemed to love the event. The Horse Fair Task Force has had several post mortem meetings, and the consensus seems to be that New Mexico has never been able to increase Horse Fair attendance as have so many other states. Our sponsors were wonderful, but there were not enough of them to put sufficient funds into publicity. And the “free admission” did not increase the crowd.

The Task Force has done the heavy lifting on properly putting a paying event together, but also decided that there was not sufficient time to plan and set up a fully rebranded event on the first weekend in May of 2008. In order to retain the date reservation, there will be a horse event, inviting the community, and charging admission, on the first Saturday in May. The details still remain to be worked out. Those who came loved the event; we just need to vastly increase that number.

## National Animal Identification System

“I will have to install a time clock at the end of my driveway, and clock in and out to trail ride.”  
“The microchips are sending signals to satellites so they know where my horse is all the time.”

Well, no. The USDA has been tasked to set up a national animal identification system to assist with disease traceback, and only disease traceback. During the bovine TB outbreak in NM this spring, officials were extremely lucky to have the New Mexico ID systems already in place. In fact, NM is well ahead of the curve, and Dr. Dave Fly, State Veterinarian, intends to keep it that way. To that end, the New Mexico Livestock Board and New Mexico State University hosted a two day seminar at the end of September for the *New Mexico Animal Identification Stakeholders Advisory Committee*. This seminar was followed by a meeting December 7, at the Joint Stockmen's





Convention. One of the “stakeholders” is equine, and the NM Horse Council was invited to represent horses on this panel. Dr. Fly and Dr. Ron Parker of NMSU reiterated in December that here in New Mexico we want to run things the way they will work best for us, while achieving the USDA aims of a 48-hour traceback. At this time, New Mexico is concentrating on premises registration, and forms are available at the Livestock Board website. They also issue the \$30.00 “hauling permit” you need to take your horse off your property in a vehicle, and have some funding to microchip your animal at that time. See [www.newmexicolivestockboard.com](http://www.newmexicolivestockboard.com).

One thing that startled the original federal planners was that, unlike all other livestock, horses live for a long time and move around a lot. A traceback to my own 22 year old gelding’s birthplace (in 48 hours) seems unreasonable and impractical, to say the least. The American Horse Council set up the Equine Species Working Group to deal with these concerns, and now the ESWG has a website, a downloadable booklet and a premises registration video. The group represents many major horse breeds and disciplines. Go to [www.equinespeciesworkinggroup.com](http://www.equinespeciesworkinggroup.com).

### **Ditches With Trails**

For a number of years, various agencies and individuals have pursued a policy of trying to convert the irrigation ditch maintenance roads and paths of the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District for a compatible use as recreational trails. This effort was furthered by the liability law passed last legislative session, transferring liability from the MRGCD to other governmental entities involved with recreation. The next step was taken last week, when a three day planning session, open to the public, was held. An unprecedented (I believe) number of agencies, groups, and companies were partners: The National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Program, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, the City of Albuquerque, Village of Los Ranchos, Bernalillo County, North Valley Coalition, Sites Southwest and Alta Planning. After three sessions spread over one evening, one morning and one entire day, the consensus of the attendees was to leave the ditch roads in as natural a state as possible. In the words of one, “don’t pretty it up”.

Any changes to improve the suitability of the 1.7 mile stretch of Griegos Drain between Griegos and Chavez Roads must consider the crossing at Montano Road, a four lane highway filled with dedicated commuters traveling between the east and west side of the Rio Grande. Options considered were a tunnel under or a bridge over the highway, or a demand traffic light. Planning will continue; watch [www.ditcheswithtrails.org](http://www.ditcheswithtrails.org).

### **Bike-Ped-Equestrian Committee**

The New Mexico Horse Council is always attempting to become a “state” horse council instead of a “metro Albuquerque” horse council, and one way to spread some information around is through the quarterly meetings of this NM Department of Transportation Committee. The BPE consists of planners, engineers, and others, with representatives from the walkers, riders and bicyclists.

And the wife of one of the NM DOT members is a horse trainer, and another NM DOT member owns and rides a horse, so there is good equine support.

Each quarterly meeting is held in a different highway district. In 2008, the BPE will meet Feb. 21 in Hobbs, May 15 in Aztec, August 21 in Edgewood or the east mountains, and November 20 in Lordsburg or Deming. Each meeting has a “public input” period, and more horse people need to attend. Most recently, the November meeting was held in Santa Rosa. It’s not very big, and I-40 bisects Guadalupe County. It has been said that if I-40 was closed at both ends of Guadalupe County at any moment in a 24-hour day, the population of drivers and passengers would exceed the population of the County. I visited the only feed store in Santa Rosa, called The Feed Store, and was amused by their sign:

### **Working Hours for The Feed Store**

**Open most days about 9 or 10, occasionally as early as 7, but some days as late as 12 or 1.**

**We close about 4 or 5, but sometimes as late as 11 or 12.**

**Some days we aren’t here at all,  
And lately I’ve been here just about all the  
time,  
Except when I’m someplace else.**



# New Mexico Horse Council

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**DEL SOL EQUESTRIAN CENTER**

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Pat Chapin Schneider      1415 Lomas NW      Albuquerque, NM 87104      242-6993

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**DOWNS AT ALBUQUERQUE**

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**ENCHANTMENT DRIVING SOCIETY**

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# 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 \$15.00 per calendar year \_\_\_\_\_

\*through January 15, then may rise to \$20 pending NMHC Membership acceptance of new proposed structure

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Horse Council \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Meeting Dinners @ \$16 each \_\_\_\_\_

\$100 Ranchers Club Certificate chances @ \$20 each \_\_\_\_\_

Raffle tickets for "Magic Horse" sculpture @ \$1 each \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED (Thank you!)** \_\_\_\_\_

The New Mexico Horse Council's federal tax status is 501 (c) 4.

