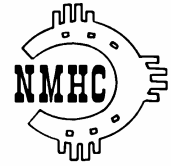


**New Mexico Horse Council**  
**P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184**



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**SPRING 2009**

*“Nunca hay caballo ensillado que a alguno no se la ofrece viaje.” (There is never a saddled horse that does not offer a journey to someone) – Old Vaquero Saying*

**Calendar**

- January 17: New Mexico Horse Council Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner, Quarters, Albuquerque**
- January 20: New Mexico 2009 Legislative Session Begins.**
- February 2: NMHC Board of Directors Meeting, South Valley, Albuquerque**
- February 3: “Rodeo Day” at State Capitol: Visit legislators.**
- March 2: NMHC Board of Directors Meeting, North Valley, Albuquerque**
- March 21: New Mexico 2009 Legislative Session Ends.**
- April 6: NMHC Board of Directors Meeting, North Valley, Albuquerque**
- May 4: NMHC Board of Directors Meeting, Bernalillo.**
- June 1: NMHC Board of Directors Meeting, Edgewood, 6:00 PM.**
- June 2: Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Board Elections.**
- June 14 – 17: American Horse Council Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum, and State Horse Councils Advisory Committee semi-annual meeting, Washington, D. C.**
- June 15: Deadline for NMHC Foundation scholarship applications.**
- June 20: Equine Micro-chipping Clinic presented by the NMHC Foundation and the New Mexico Horse Council. Topform Arena Parking Lot, Corrales, 9 AM – 1 PM.**
- July 13: NMHC Board of Directors Meeting, Santa Fe.**
- August 3: NMHC Board of Directors Meeting, Corrales.**

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**Comment.** Congratulations to Carolyn Bader, our Horse Person of the Year! NMHC decided several years ago to alternate this award with a “Lifetime Achievement” award, so in 2009 be thinking of candidates. On the membership list, please support our commercial memberships and clubs – there is complete information available on these pages and our web site. Individual members and lifetime members will not have their membership information shared, at the request of the Board. However, if you wish to contact any of them, let us know and we will pass it along.





## 2008 Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner

The Annual Meeting again slipped into the next calendar year, as so many people are busy during December. About forty members and guests gathered at the Quarters Restaurant on January 17 for a good dinner with a great selection of barbecue and other “fixings”. President Rusty Cook gave a review of 2008, Nancy Searles distributed minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting, and Val Cole had an encouraging treasurer’s report. After elections, it was on to the fun part, recognizing some of the people who contributed so greatly to a successful year for the Council and for horses and horse people in general.

## 2008 Year in Review

**December.** (07) NMHC participates in formation of the New Mexico Horse Rescue Coalition, horse rescue organizations certified (as required) by the New Mexico Livestock Board. Also attends National Animal Identification Working Group at Joint Stockmen’s convention.

**January.** NMHC Annual Meeting and Awards. NMHC ad hoc legislative group opposes several bills in the legislature. None pass.

**February.** NMHC participates in final review of revised regulations for “fugitive dust” proposed by the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board. Small tracts of land and some trails are exempted from provisions.

**April.** Outreach booth at Horsemen’s Feed party. NMHC members reappointed to two state and one city recreation and trails advisory committee.

**May.** NMHC produces Horses In Action at Expo New Mexico – performances of various equine groups for the public.

**June.** NMHC representatives attend American Horse Council Annual Meeting and USDA seminar on The Unwanted Horse. NMHC Vice President Eldon Reyer receives national Van Ness award.

**July/August.** NM Governor states intention to redevelop or move Expo New Mexico Fairgrounds; NMHC fills meetings, submits plan. NMHC participates in US Forest Service Travel Management plan meetings.

**July/August/September.** NMHC participates in “Emergency Annex” meetings convened by various counties, NM State University, and the US Homeland Security department to produce emergency action plans.

**August.** NMHC holds “Horsin’ Around”, an equestrian emporium with vendors, seminars and demonstrations.

**September.** Throughout the seventeen days of the State Fair, NMHC tent and booth features equines, horse breed and interest groups, and showcases “the world of horses”.

**October.** NMHC sends delegate to State Trails Conference. NMHC Equestrian Trails brochure is completed and distributed.

**November.** NMHC member attends national Trails Symposium. NMHC member is named to Expo Task Force after governor announces that equestrian center plans will shift from Mesa del Sol to Expo New Mexico.

**December.** NMHC sends packet to all members of NM legislature. Expo Task Force meets several times. NMHC members asked to join USDA committee on wild horses, and selection committee for National Park Director. Members meet with representative of Maryland horse rescue.

**January.** (09) Expo Task Force completes preliminary work on redesign plan. Legislative session begins. NM Department of Transportation committee and NMHC complete design of “Equestrian Awareness Brochure” to be published by NM DOT in English and Spanish. Annual Meeting and awards.

## Election of Board Members

By acclamation, Val Cole, Eldon Reyer and Elsie Anne Shollenbarger were re-elected to three year terms; John Collins and Jeff Bader were elected to three year terms. Winona Kennedy accepted an appointment to fill a term, now vacant, ending in December 2009.

## Certificates of Appreciation

**Lynwyatt and Jordan Allen.** These young brothers helped produce the successful 2008 NMHC state fair exhibit for the public and the horse community, including doubling the sales of the NMHC “magic horse” raffle sculpture.





**Baca Horse Conservancy.** Brought Spanish Colonial horses to the Horsin' Around Emporium and to several days at the State Fair; also provided "Hidalgo", the equine movie star.

**Cathy Chapel.** For service as NMHC director (two terms) and help with fundraising activities.

**Rusty Cook.** As President of NMHC, involvement in all Horse Council activities including the website, membership, events, legislative matters, fundraising; increasing the stature of the New Mexico Horse Council.

**Kristin Darnell.** One third of the triumvirate envisioning, creating and producing the successful Horsin' Around Emporium for the Council, the NMHC Foundation and the horse community.

**Alison Haxton.** As Expo New Mexico Horse Superintendent, facilitating permission for NMHC exhibit space, assisting in providing the tent and other materials. The 2008 state fair tent project was the most successful ever.

**David Kreger.** For envisioning, creating and producing the successful Horsin' Around Emporium for the Council, the NMHC Foundation and the horse community.

**Maura Lewiecki.** As a member of the Board of Directors, concentrating on trail and land use issues for the Council, including attendance at conferences, meetings, and hearings; becoming a certified trail planner and builder.

**Catherine Logan-Carrillo.** For producing and publishing The Horsemen's Voice, New Mexico's first general purpose horse magazine, appealing to all horse interests in the state.

**Copy-Rite, Chris Steinbach.** For instant, dependable, professional and friendly production of NMHC newsletters and other materials.

**New Mexico Horse Rescue Coalition.** For its activities in bringing attention to the plight of unwanted horses in New Mexico, and for efforts to rehome many abused and abandoned animals.

**Eldon Reyer.** As Vice President of NMHC, involving himself in all Horse Council activities including emergency evacuation meetings, horse rescue issues, trails meetings and conferences; increasing the stature of the NM Horse Council.

**Governor Bill Richardson.** For efforts to establish a world class equestrian center to attract

the best horses and riders from New Mexico and surrounding states to ride and exhibit at events at Expo New Mexico.

**Jean Rowe.** As NM State Fair stall manager, providing a stall adjacent to the Horse Arena for the NMHC tent and booth and facilitating trailer parking for our providers. Contributing to the most successful State Fair project to date.

**Nancy Searles.** For envisioning, creating and producing the successful Horsin' Around Emporium for NMHC and the horse community.

**Melanie Scholer.** For creating and nurturing the unique Ditch Pony Promenade and also the Lefty Converse memorial horse show, bringing the joys of horse showing to those otherwise unable to afford it; and for your splendid customer service.

**Tom Trowbridge.** As Coordinator of the Governor's Bicycle, Pedestrian and Equestrian Committee of the NM Department of Transportation, including equestrian concerns and issues in all meetings and reports produced by the BPE Committee.

**SPECIAL AWARD.** Since **Jackie Bouker** is deserving of and has received Certificates of Appreciation for many years, at this meeting she was presented with a plaque for her barn. In recognition of her determination to actually ride all the trails she can reach, in addition to attending all the meetings and hearings she deems necessary, her plaque shows a backdrop of trail riders, with the legend:

*"I Ride – Therefore, I'm Not Here."*

**Horse Person Of The Year.**

**Carolyn Bader** was cheered as the 2008 recipient of this award, and was presented with a beautiful Patricia Crane horse head sculpture. Carolyn has been an important part of the New Mexico horse industry for over fifty years. She and her husband Dick had a training and lesson stable with Quarter horses, Buckskins, Arabians, Morgans and other breeds and also raised two sons, Jeff and Barry, who are involved with horses. After Dick's death in 1986, Carolyn went on to develop several AQHA champions and conduct horsemanship clinics in the US and other countries. She has written several articles on horse training, and served on many NM Quarter Horse Association committees, as well as assisting in many NM Horse Council projects over the years.





## Legislative Session

As in all odd numbered years, the 2009 New Mexico Legislature was in session for sixty rather than thirty days. Our members were watching many bills put forth to support changes in animal laws, providing in general for better welfare and more severe penalties for mistreatment. We also were alert for attempts to change the status of horses and other equines from livestock to companion animals.

In December, the Council sent packets of materials to each legislator, including a postage-paid card in case any of them needed further information or support on any bills. (We heard from only one, Senator Dede Feldman.) Several Council members also attended "rodeo day" in Santa Fe on February 3. The Rodeo Council and other horse groups visited legislators to urge support for equine events and recreation.

Although NMHC did not sponsor any specific legislation, halfway through the session we sent letters to each member of the Senate and House, supporting one particular bill and opposing two others.

The NMHC directors voted to support SB 222, which would have used a small portion of Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District income from tax levies to promote development of the irrigation ditch roads and trails into a recreational trails network. The Conservancy's enabling legislation mandates only irrigation and flood control, but almost two thirds of its income from taxes is from non-irrigators, many of whom are enthusiastic non-motorized (pedestrian, equestrian and bicyclist) users of the ditch trails.

Directors opposed HB 781, creation of an Equine Protection Fund. Two concerns: (1) who would administer the fund? If the New Mexico Livestock Board is charged with the responsibility, that would be acceptable. (2) the costs of administration would add an expensive layer between money donated to horse rescues, and the actual contributions they would eventually receive.

Directors also opposed SB 471, creation of a Rodeo Council. This would make permanent the Council previously created by the Governor, and also give it some powers to schedule events at some venues like Expo New Mexico. Since the

State Fair Commission already runs Expo, NMHC could see potential conflicts.

In the end, none of these three bills passed.

Possibility for the future: the state does need an entity like the **Horse Industry Boards** in Maryland or Virginia, or the Colorado **Horse Development Authority**, which would promote the entire horse industry and not just one part of it, such as racing or rodeo.

## Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District

Senator Feldman's bill was not the only one introduced during the legislative session which would have affected the district. In fact, one bill would have dissolved the Board and put the district into receivership, indicating a deep disapproval of some of the Board's actions over the last year.

[www.mrgcd.com](http://www.mrgcd.com) is the website for the district, and lists candidates and polling places for the election on June 2. Socorro County has four candidates vying for Position 6, left vacant by the incumbent Gary Perry. For Position 7, Sandoval County, incumbent Jimmy Wagner is challenged by Derrick J. Lente. I have attended candidates' forums for the Bernalillo County positions 3 and 4. Incumbent Bill Turner (Position 3) is being opposed by challenger Karen Dunning. Turner is a trustee of Lions Gate Water, which in March filed a notice of intent with the office of the State Engineer to appropriate an estimated 15 billion acre-feet of salty or brackish, mineral filled water under all federal, state and private land in New Mexico. Many feel it is a conflict for him to be a director at MRGCD. Karen Dunning is a former community planner and North Valley resident who thinks that non-irrigators deserve a better value for their tax contributions. In Position 4, Jim Roberts, a farmer, is the incumbent. He won the position originally with promises to reduce the per diem for MRGCD staff and other personnel, improve communications, and lower the tax rate. He is a member of NM Horse Council and his family shows hunters and jumpers. His opponent, Adrian Oglesby, is the Living Rivers Program Director with the Nature Conservancy, and has a real vision of a more responsive and balanced MRGCD Board.

Turnout in this election is historically low, since it is not combined with a general election, machine





votes are used (instead of the newly mandated paper ballots), and many do not even know if they are eligible. (If your property tax bill has an assessment for “MRGCD”, you are qualified.)

Your vote can make a difference in this election; we have had Council members arguing both sides of the ditch issue. Some worked on the Ditches with Trails project, only to see it summarily dismissed by the MRGCD Board. Other long time and loyal NMHC members are eloquent in arguing that, once farmers are replaced on the Board, irrigation (and after that the recreational trails) are doomed.

### Expo Update

The Expo Task Force did submit its plan early in the year to redesign the Fairgrounds with an Equestrian section in the northeast quarter. However, the Downs at Albuquerque has now announced that it will defer its planned move to Moriarty for at least a year. Needed infrastructure money was not appropriated during the legislative session, and the economic reality is that this season is not a good time for an expensive move. All the work done by the task force is on the shelf.

Are there any changes in the Downs lease at Expo New Mexico? One might ask the State Fair Commissioners at their monthly meetings, but unfortunately they are all being held out of town this summer: Ruidoso, Los Lunas and Las Cruces, and none at all in August. The next time they will be meeting on the Fairgrounds will be at the beginning of the 2009 State Fair. We can't check out the rumor that one commissioner was removed, and then reinstated. Nor have we met the newest Expo general manager. Judith Espinosa has been replaced by Craig Swagerty from the NM Tourism Department – he was formerly the mayor of Red River.

Although the usual horse shows are being held this spring, most are down in numbers due to the economy. (In fact, the only show with much larger numbers was the Ditch Pony Promenade in Corrales. This show does not charge entry fees, has all volunteer staff, and its organizer Melanie Scholer has worked overtime to amass many sponsors and prizes. One helper at the gate said classes with over 20 horses were not uncommon!) According to judge (and NMHC director) Elsie Shollenbarger, this is approaching what shows

used to be – fun for exhibitors, spectators and the horses as well. (Melanie Scholer and Elsie Shollenbarger have both been recipients of the NMHC Horse Person of the Year award.)

### Volunteers Are Needed!

We often look with envy at some of the projects accomplished by other state horse councils. But many are subsidized by their states, or have grants to pay for staff, or profit from very successful Horse Fairs. NMHC is all volunteer, exists on dues and fundraisers, and has lost money on its past several horse fairs – therefore, we decided not to hold a Horse Fair in 2009. We never “turned the corner” to hold an event with enough sponsors and paid admissions to cover the facility costs. We need volunteers for our projects, and not the same faces each time. The first ever Horsin’ Around Emporium last summer was successful, in that it broke even and attendees and vendors thought it was a good start for a redesigned Horse Fair. However, in 2009 there was such a long delay and uncertainty in getting the date for the venue approved that the committee decided the planning time was simply too short to organize and publicize a worthwhile event. Here is the status of current projects:

**Microchipping Clinic.** It’s coming right up, on June 20, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and Kris Darnell and Nancy Searles could surely use some **volunteers**. Even a couple of hours put in at the Topform Arena in Corrales would help.

Staff from the Livestock Board will do the actual microchipping and produce the hauling permits, but some help with logistics would be greatly appreciated. Call Kris, 400-7438. This is presented by the Council and the Foundation, and as a service to horse owners will offer the permit (required whenever taking a horse to a different Livestock Board district). The district lines do not exactly conform to the county lines, and this year some trainers and owners have been stopped and fined for not having the papers with them. Livestock hauling permits will cost \$30, the microchip \$5 and a Coggins test \$5. (Fees are paid to NM Livestock Board.) Altering existing permits, such as changing an owner’s address, will also cost \$5. Permits are good for the life of the horse with the original owner. The Village will allow the Foundation to use the parking lot.





**Legislation and lobbying.** Volunteers did keep track of bills during the session, and traveled to Santa Fe to visit legislators and staff. If any legislation is needed for 2010, it is time to plan and write it. **Volunteers needed** to keep up the contact with your own legislators during the year – at all levels, city, county and state.

**Outreach.** NMHC was represented at the Horsemen’s Feed party in April and the Ditch Pony Promenade in May. Needed: a table at the Lefty Converse show in August, and it’s not too early to think about **volunteers** for the state fair booth and tent. Ask anyone who has gone to help – it’s the great chance to meet people who have never been within feet of a real horse.



**Horsin’ Around Emporium: Volunteers needed** to assist in planning a great event for 2010. This would benefit the NMHC Foundation. What we can offer (vendors? Clinicians? Demonstrations? Kids Activities?) will depend on the venue selected.

**Trail Ride:** We have had great rides in the past, particularly those organized by Mary Jo Wallen and Annette Gonzalez. This year, we had hoped to plan an overnight ride at the **Valles Caldera**. However, overnight camping seems not to be approved yet. **Volunteers needed** to deal with the Preservation Trust staff, reserve a weekend for the ride and assist in planning.

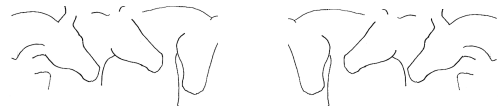
**Tack Swap.** Dan’s Boots and Melanie Scholer have generously offered to let NMHC hold the tack swap in conjunction with the Lefty Converse memorial horse show at the Topform Arena in Corrales. However, the Village of Corrales has informed NMHC that it will have to pay fees and taxes, and each renter of a table space will have to fill out forms for each item sold and pay taxes to the Village. It’s obviously impossible to hold the swap there. **Volunteers needed** to find another location and help with planning and organizing donations for the NMHC table.

**Silent Auction.** This is a terrific way to help an organization. I do not believe the person exists who does not have a great item that no longer fits with their lifestyle, and who would love to donate it to a worthy group to find a new owner. It does

take a great amount of time to organize and collect the donations, but has few actual expenses. The Board had already decided to have donors specify which group would benefit – the Horse Council or the NMHC Foundation – but with the Horsin’ Around Emporium now on “hold” the silent auction is in the planning and storing stage. **Volunteers needed** to find storage, begin collecting and record keeping.

**Board of Directors.** This requires membership in the Horse Council, and a commitment to attend as many of the monthly meetings as possible (ten are held each year, with no meeting in September or the month of the Annual Meeting). Directors set policy for the organization, and usually end up volunteering time for projects as well. The **treasurer’s office** is currently vacant, but the bills are getting paid and the checks are being deposited by the former treasurer. Also, at least two **director positions**, partial terms, are open if the **needed volunteers** wish to try it out. This year, we have tried to set meetings earlier and spread them around the area, in an effort to represent more of the state. It has not resulted in a great increase in attendance.

**Membership campaign.** We are fortunate to have many dedicated members, but are still one of the least known organizations in the state. Each campaign results in more people seeing the benefits of a group organized to help the horse industry, but **volunteers are needed** to help. One way – and it takes only a couple of hours of your time, total – is to attend a meeting of a horse club in your area, get on the agenda and talk about the horse council. Take a membership blank or five. You will be surprised.



**NMHC Foundation.** The Council itself is a 501 (c) 4 organization as determined by the IRS. We spent a great deal of money several years ago attempting to achieve 501 (c) 3 charitable status, which many state horse councils enjoy. However, the person assigned for the determination was adamant. Some state Councils in our position have formed a charitable foundation to carry out some of their projects, and the Horse Council formed the 501 (c) 3 NMHC Foundation several years ago.

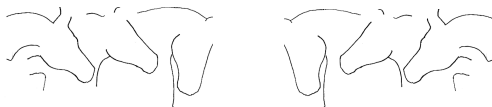




Like any other organization, it required volunteer involvement and remained relatively inactive. However, this year things are very different. Under the direction of former NMHC director and secretary Nancy Searles, the Foundation actively seeks **volunteers** to solicit donations and brainstorm ideas for fundraising and for disbursement as well. The first **scholarship** will be proudly awarded this summer. The Foundation Board currently consists of Nancy Searles, Laura Burton, Kathy Falter and Deb Swalby; Jan Henfling has left the NMHC Board to assist with the Foundation as well. (The IRS prefers that people not serve on both Boards simultaneously.)

Contact Nancy Searles to have an application for the scholarship mailed or electronically sent to you; the deadline to return it is June 15 and the decision will be finalized by July 15. E mail Nancy at [nansearl@swcp.com](mailto:nansearl@swcp.com). The Foundation address is:

**NM HORSE COUNCIL FOUNDATION  
P. O. BOX 10513  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87184**



**Emergency Evacuation Brochure.** Eldon Reyer has completed a draft of this brochure. It needs an update of any current emergency procedures, and then can be formatted and printed for distribution.

**New Mexico Horse Council Newsletter.** I produced my first newsletter for the New Mexico Horse Council in 1990 – on a typewriter. The original NMHC newsletter grew to be the Horsemen’s Voice magazine with Sallie Pennybacker as editor and publisher; it has since been taken over by Nancy Gage and Jay Koch, and is presently being published by Catherine Logan-Carrillo.

My NMHC newsletters have been a labor of love for the past nineteen years and I truly have appreciated the compliments.

However, now that my husband has “officially retired” from Sandia Laboratories (he is working for a subcontractor one or two days a week), and taking into account some serious health issues in my out of state family members, it may be time to

turn the project over to someone else. This particular issue is unforgivably late, for one thing; for another, some have asked in the past if we would consider accepting advertising to help defray the cost of printing and postage for those who prefer a paper copy rather than an electronic one (members do have the option). I am unable to take on the additional time commitment that advertising would require.

So. If you have ever desired to help the Council and the horse community by writing, printing and sending a few newsletters per year – your very own vanity publishing house – please contact me or the other officers, Rusty Cook or Eldon Reyer.

**New Mexico Horse Council Meetings  
Board of Directors**

|  |
|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Officers</u></p> <p>Rusty Cook, President (2009)<br/>Eldon Reyer, Vice President (2011)<br/>Val Cole, Secretary (2011)<br/>(Treasurer: vacant)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Directors-at-Large:</u></p> <p>Dr. Jeff Bader (2011)<br/>John Collins (2011)<br/>Kristin Darnell (2009)<br/>Winona Kennedy (2009)<br/>David Kreger (2010)<br/>Maura Lewiecki (2010)<br/>Dr. Philip Reppert (2010)<br/>Elsie Shollenbarger (2011)<br/>Harry Touloumis (2010)<br/>Lori Walton (2009)<br/>Director Emeritus: Blair Darnell</p> |
|--|

**February Board Meeting.** (Sunstar Loop, South Valley, Albuquerque.) Minutes are posted on the NMHC web site. Officers are elected by the directors; for 2009, Rusty Cook is President, Eldon Reyer Vice-President, Valerie Cole Secretary, and the office of treasurer is currently vacant. Dr. Joe Baker of the New Mexico Livestock Board updated directors and guests on the status of three equine diseases: Contagious Equine Metritis, (CEM), Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) and Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). Animal legislation introduced so far in the 2009 legislative session was reviewed by Marguerite Bowers of Bomar Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation and discussed. Other updates: Horsin’ Around Committee, “Rodeo Day”





lobbying in Santa Fe, NMHC Foundation Board, Horse Rescue Coalition, Trails, Expo Task Force, American Horse Council memoranda. The NMHC Board will vote on joining the Equestrian Land Conservation Resource as an Equestrian Partner at the March meeting. Action item:

- Renew Club Liability Insurance. Passed.
- Send Valles Caldera EA comments. Passed.

**March Board Meeting.** (Los Arboles Ave., North Valley, Albuquerque.) Complete minutes are posted on the NMHC web site. Reports: Horsin' Around Committee, 2009 Legislative Session to date, Rodeo Day lobbying, NMHC Foundation, Horse Rescue Coalition (NM Livestock Board required annual recertifications), Expo Task Force, Downs at Albuquerque, Outreach at Horsemen's Feed April 18, Ditch Pony May 17, Lefty Converse August 16, Governor's BPE Quarterly meeting in Roswell, 2009 Horse Symposium sponsored by Hoofprints magazine. Discussion of horse book donations, tack swap. Action items:

- Send letter to legislators. Passed.
- Join Equestrian Land Conservation Resource. Passed.
- Honorary directorship, Blair Darnell. Passed.

**April Board Meeting.** (Bernalillo County Extension Center, North Valley, Albuquerque.) Complete minutes are posted on the NMHC web site. Senator Dede Feldman gave a wrap-up of the 2009 legislative session and spoke about the upcoming MRGCD election. Reports and updates: Horse Symposium, Horse Rescue Coalition meeting with NM Livestock Board, "Preparedness and Response to Agricultural Terrorism" seminar to be offered by FEMA, Homeland Security and the Louisiana State University Center for Biomedical Research and Training. Also: Outreach at Horsemen's Feed Party, Ditch Pony Promenade, Lefty Converse show. Proposal to sponsor an NMHC Banner at the new San Ysidro arena. Updates on American Horse Council Annual Meeting, Sandia Ranger District travel management plan, Mountainair Ranger District meetings, Bachechi Open Space update, Corrales Trail Plan, E-Extension Horse Quest. Action items:

- Designate Val Cole as NMHC delegate to AHC Annual Meeting. Passed.



- Design silent auction donation form allowing choice of recipient, NM Horse Council or NMHC Foundation. Passed.

**May Board Meeting.** (Range Café, Bernalillo.) Draft minutes have been distributed to Board members, approval will be a June agenda item. Updates: Horsin' Around Planning Committee – full fledged Emporium will be deferred, instead an Equine Micro-chipping clinic will be held. Annual Trail Ride, NMHC Foundation Scholarship, Agricultural Terrorism Seminar, Horsemen's Feed Open House. Also: Tack Swap, Banner at San Ysidro arena, building endowment for Foundation, Silent Auction deferral. Hammers and Hooves Horse Fair in Moriarty, June 19-21; Governor's BPE Quarterly meeting in Moriarty May 14. Action item:

- NMHC to pay Val Cole's registration fee for the AHC Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. (Cole will assume all other expenses.) Passed.

### Hammers & Hooves Horse Fair

Long time NMHC member B.J. Elcock is the "go-to" organizer for this event, to be held at the Wildlife West Nature Park in Edgewood June 19 – 21. There will be live shoeing competition by World Champion Blacksmiths, and she has a complete program of demonstrations by leading professionals in the New Mexico horse industry. The admission price, \$7.00 adult, \$6.00 seniors, \$4.00 students and kids (but under 5 is free!) won't empty your pocket, and includes admission to the park. Enjoy also the photography contest, and the "Old Fashioned Pie Contest" sounds very yummy. Contact BJ at 281-8917 for more information or to **volunteer**.

### Equestrian Land Conservation Resource

This organization continues to grow, trying to combat the fact that land is disappearing at the rate of over 250 acres per hour. Recent news: they have collaborated with the Land Trust Alliance to develop a coalition of 41 organizations supporting H.R. 1831, establishing permanent expanded tax incentives for land conservation. They have also received a grant from the USA Equestrian Trust and expanded their Equestrian Partners program to 116 organization members. And, they have developed trail safety guidelines. See the website, [www.elcr.org](http://www.elcr.org), for more.





**One-Year Moratorium  
On Development in Roadless Areas**

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has issued a “time-out” on developing roadless areas in National Forests, ordering a one year ban on road building, logging or oil and gas exploration unless he approves it himself.

President Bill Clinton had issued a ruling mandating umbrella protection; President Bush later amended that to management plans by each state. Citing confusion, Vilsack said the moratorium would provide “consistency and clarity” while President Obama’s roadless policy is being developed.



**American Horse Council**  
([www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org))

The New Mexico Horse Council is a state horse council member (it is required by our Bylaws) and is therefore a recipient of a constant stream of information on current status of legislation in both houses of Congress, and regulations proposed by various federal agencies.

Two weeks ago, they alerted horse organizations to the fact that the Recreational Trails Program may not be reauthorized. The RTP has, since its inception, provided approximately \$730 million for state and local trails projects across the country, many of which benefit equestrians. RTP money can be used to construct and repair trails, build trailhead facilities and acquire easements. It will need to be re-authorized in the next five year highway bill, which Congress will begin work on very soon. The AHC asks that all recreational riders contact their representatives in Washington to urge them to support RTP funding, and to send copies of any letters or memos to AHC.

Most recently (today, in fact) the memo title is “Bush H-2A Agricultural Worker Rules are Suspended by Obama”. The Bush administration had adopted the new procedures for the program on December 18, 2008, with an effective date of January 17, 2009. The rules affect many horse breeding farms which employ foreign workers for

temporary periods. The Department of Labor reviewed the December 2008 rule in March of this year, accepted public comment, deliberated, and suspended it May 29 for a period of nine months.

The full program for the National Issues Forum on June 16 has been published. Titled “Welfare and the Horse”, it will begin with the keynote address, “Responsible Horse Ownership – When the Dream Becomes Reality”. This will be followed by panels on racing, showing, competition/sport horse, work/sales/research, and a report from the Unwanted Horse Coalition. The final talk will be “Where do we go from here? Responsibilities to our Horses, our Industry, our Fans and the Public”.

At the November meeting of the State Horse Councils Advisory Committee, a task force was formed to consider the relationship between the American Horse Council, the committee, and state horse councils. The task force sent last week eleven pages of recommendations, to be discussed at the day-long SHCAC meeting June 15.

**Horse Slaughter Updates**

The American Horse Council reports that Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA) has introduced the Prevention of Equine Cruelty Act of 2009 (S. 727). This is identical to a bill (H.R. 503) introduced in the House by Representative John Conyers (D-MI) and would criminalize the possession, transport, sale, delivery, or receiving in interstate or foreign commerce of a horse or horse meat with the intent that it be used for human consumption.

Several states have proposed re-instituting equine slaughter or processing, and have bills pending in their state legislatures. This month, Montana’s HB 418 became law, authorizing investor owned livestock slaughter and processing plants, with protections for the environment, animals and investors.

**Sandia Labs and Wild Horses**

Sensor technology developed at Sandia National Laboratories for national security purposes could soon play a role in saving wild horses. In the Carson National Forest, rangers needed to know the location and number of horses in the Jicarilla Wild Horse Territory in order to monitor the population. If overwhelming the resources, some would need to be removed.





Mount Taylor Mustangs, a contractor that rounds up wild horses for the Forest Service, asked Sandia to help with a sensor technology that would make it easier to know when the horses are in the trapping corral. They could then remove excess populations to be adopted out before the food sources disappear.

Currently, bait is placed in a corral and the contractor sits in a trailer a hundred yards away, watching a television monitor. When horses are in the pen, the contractor can close the gate with a remote control. Since the horses have their own good sensors, they are often well aware that a human is in the vicinity.

Under the NM Small Business Assistance Program, the request for “technology” led two researchers to adapt an existing product. They designed a cost-effective container the size of a shoebox, with a radio transmitter, electronic processor, and externally connected seismic sensors. When an animal the size of a horse triggers the sensors, a camera is activated and sends an image to a person up to five miles away. If the person sees several horses, he can close the gate remotely – and can monitor several corrals.

### **Tooth Characteristics and Feed Digestibility**

The American Association of Equine Practitioners has reported a study showing that “floating” (filing smooth) equine teeth does not improve feed digestion. The study of seventeen quarter horses found no apparent correlation between *oral pathology score* (a measure of mouth abnormalities) and any measure of feed digestibility, including feed particle size in the stomach and feces or nutrient analysis.

However, veterinarians do not advise owners to avoid dental attention to their equines. Changes in tooth wear can indicate difficulties in soft tissues, including ulcers and infections. Floating teeth should be done to reduce pain, not to improve digestion.

### **MRSA More Common in Horse People**

Also from the AAEP, recent findings show that MRSA (*methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus*) bacterial infections are ten times more common in equine veterinarians than in the general population, and that MRSA can spread

from horses to humans. One strain associated with food animals and horses is not as damaging as the “flesh eating bacteria” associated with some strains found in hospitals. However, equine strains can be resistant to some antibiotics.

Few studies of MRSA risk factors have been done in horses, but hospitalization and a weakened immune system are certainly factors which could lead to colonization with the bacteria. The majority of horses seem able to clear the MRSA on their own if re-exposure can be prevented. Drug therapy is not indicated unless clinical infection is present, and the cultures should be tested for drug sensitivity before choosing an antibiotic. As usual, the goal is to avoid transmission with cleanliness guidelines.

### **A Gyrocopter?**

In England, the Warwickshire Hunt and the entire hunting community were shocked and saddened by the death of one of their most devoted lifelong foot followers. Trevor Morse was killed after being hit in the head with by the propellers of a two man gyrocopter. The aircraft was flown by self styled “hunt monitors”, members of the group Protect Our Wild Animals. The gyrocopter had followed the hunt for several weeks and several complaints were filed about its low altitude pursuit. The complaints were in the process of being investigated, and the two men in the aircraft have been charged with murder. (*Sources: Chronicle of the Horse, Manchester Guardian.*)

### **Cowboy Park Roping Contests**

An intriguing book was recently published. “Cowboy Park Steer Roping Contests on the Border”, by John O. Baxter, describes a time when rodeo-style steer roping in the New Mexico Territory was against the law. (Ropers went to Ciudad Juárez and put in a roping arena eventually known as Cowboy Park. Roping contests were very popular with spectators, in spite of competition with bullfights.)

The ban against steer roping was enacted in 1905 in New Mexico and Texas, and not much later in Arizona. The reason? Ranchers claimed roping on the range was taking up too much time, and “the boys are not very careful what they do to the steer”. Cattle that are run don’t get fat. The ban was eventually repealed in 1933.





## Membership

We have had many supporters who stay with the Horse Council year after year. Some are able to help with projects; some believe in the power of numbers. Horse owners are enthusiastic, committed and anxious to have facilities and trails they can use – and riders and owners are a minority group compared to other users. Some names are missing this year. Surely the economy is a contributor. We have noticed that smaller trailers come to shows with fewer horses. Recreational trails are less heavily used. Anyone selling horse furnishings is aware of the downturn. And horse operations are being downsized. But perhaps one reason is the lack of newsletters and dues reminders this spring, for which I again apologize. Please check the list below for your name. [I'm one of the worst at saying "didn't I just (pay this) (read this article) (send this contribution) only to find it was last year.] And if you meant to, there's a handy dues invoice at the end of the list!

*Val*

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# New Mexico Horse Council, Inc.

## 2009 Dues Invoice

Club Dues \$30.00 Per Calendar Year \_\_\_\_\_

Business Dues \$30.00 Per Calendar Year \_\_\_\_\_

Club or Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. (area code), fax \_\_\_\_\_

web site & email \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Dues \$20.00 per calendar year \_\_\_\_\_

Lifetime Individual Dues \$200.00 (one time payment) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Share your horse interests and concerns

The New Mexico Horse Council's federal tax status: 501 (c) 4.  
Mail to: NM Horse Council, P.O. Box 10206, Albuquerque, NM 87184

- Check this box if you wish to receive newsletters as a pdf attachment to email
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**Note: Club and Business information printed on our web site with a link to your website  
Individual and Lifetime membership information: Only names released**

