



# New Mexico Horse Council

PO Box 10206, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87184



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**NMHC Motto:** *Uniting the equine community.*

**NMHC Mission:** *To act on behalf of the New Mexico equine community through education and promoting activities benefiting all equine interests.*

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*Background: This quote is from a novel covering the period immediately prior to and the first part of WW I in England and France. Besides probing the events leading up to the war, it follows two women, teachers, and the brother of one of them. One of the women marries the brother/ farmer and attempts to learn how to manage the farm when he enlists; the sister eventually becomes an ambulance driver in France. The British army is collecting all the horses it can for the army to use in France, as the life span of horses shipped to the battle grounds is measured in months. The army has reluctantly left the farmer's wife with a last pair of Shire horses, Mabel and Ted. Meanwhile, the British department of agriculture is demanding ever increasing harvests for the army from those few left on the farms. The farmer's wife, Kezia, writes:*

*"Well, Tom, we still have Mabel and Ted, even though the Army have been back three times now, but I don't think they will come again, after what happened with Mabel. They said they would take her and leave us with Ted, which the officer said was being very generous... Anyway, they took Mabel, and Ada cried and I had to hold back my tears. Bert stood at the farm gate, just watching them walk down the road with her. It was as if he wanted her to know he was watching her go. Then she turned her big head—fair pulled the soldier's arm out of its socket—and looked back. As soon as she saw him watching, that was it. I have never seen her do such a thing, and I didn't think she could, even though she's a big strong mare. She reared up all of her eighteen hands, and she came down so hard you felt the ground shake. The soldiers and the officer skittered to get out of the way. Then she gave a buck to reach the moon, turned tail, and she galloped all the way back to Bert, who looked down the road at the soldiers and led her to her stall. The officer came and took back the money he'd given me for her, and I was happy to hand it over. He said a horse like that wouldn't last two minutes in France, that they would end up shooting her anyway because she would cause more trouble than she's worth, and he'd never known spoiled horses like it. Well, Tom, those spoiled horses were back in front of the plough again as soon as Bert had let them have their talk to each other and a bag of oats."*  
— *The Care and Management of Lies*, Jacqueline Winspear, Harper-Collins Publishers, 2014.

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## New Mexico Horse Council Membership Dues Increase Passed by Board of Directors

The NMHC Board of Directors has passed a membership dues increase, to \$25 per individual (per year) from \$20, and to \$40 for clubs or businesses (from \$30). Since the Council is funded by dues and fundraisers, and since no fundraisers have been held recently, the treasury needs funds even for our fairly small operating costs. Although not required by NMHC Bylaws, the dues increases have traditionally been presented for approval, with justification and future plans, to the membership at the Annual Meeting. President Ron Morris has already announced that the increase will not go into effect until the beginning of 2017 – NMHC runs on a calendar year – which should be an incentive to pay dues soon! You can submit your dues by snail mail using the membership form or visit the NMHC website to join via PayPal.



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## Candidates for New Mexico Horse Council Board of Directors

Seven candidates have thrown their name in the hat for the NMHC Board of Director seats. Elections will be held during the upcoming annual membership meeting to be held January 14, 2017 at Ribs BBQ in Los Lunas, NM at 1 PM.

Nominations will be accepted from the floor so it is not too late to be nominated (or nominate yourself). Please contact President Ron Morris or Executive Secretary, Danette McGuire if you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors. We will elect five directors and votes may be cast by proxy. We will send a separate email with instructions in early January. Here are the voting guidelines according to the NMHC By-Laws.

#### Voting

1. Each organization that is a member shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) votes at any general meeting. The voting delegates must have written authorization from their organization.
2. Proxies shall be recognized.
3. A delegate may not represent more than one organization.
4. A delegate may cast an individual vote as well as a delegate vote, if the delegate is also an individual member.
5. Individual members are entitled to one (1) vote.
6. Commercial memberships are entitled to one (1) vote.
7. Associate members are not entitled to vote.

In alphabetical order, here are the biographies for candidates who submitted their interest in serving and a bio by November 1. There are no guidelines for biographies.

#### **Bon Bagley - Corrales, NM**

Born in Boston, raised on farm near Cape Cod, falling off ponies and horses since the age of four. Raised with working Morgans and Hackneys under saddle and in harness. First horse in N.M. an Appaloosa mare, used to ride the high country, mentored by ranchers, helped out at a couple of the last real gatherings in northern N.M., and delivered medicine for rural health care providers on horseback when the snow was too deep for 4WDs. Degree in Anthropology/Archaeology from U.N.M. Showed in Appaloosa, Open Driving, Hackney, Morgan & TWH classes over the years. Helped establish the Enchantment Driving Society. Ridden horses in Sweden, Iceland, Ireland, Jordan, driven a pair in Orkney Islands, Scotland. Former contributor to "The Horseman's Voice." Currently owns Morgans including a rescue and a TWH; affectionate owner of a well-regarded public service horse, "Caesar," designated CHAMP's "Honorary Equine Mayor of Corrales." Still falling off.

Currently a member of Boards of: NMHC (Trails, Events & Facilities and Outreach & Education Committees); Corrales Horse and Mule People (CHAMP) Board of Directors; Chair of the Corrales Equestrian Advisory Commission which advises equine policy; member (non-voting) of the Governor's Rio Grande Trail Commission (User Group, Planning, and Resources Committees), member of Back Country Horsemen (BCH) of NM & alternate delegate to NMBCH Board.

Past and ongoing involvement: free lessons in horsemanship and driving to select handicapped students as well as kids whose families can't afford lessons; Organizer of the first 4th of July Parade for Corrales (Susan Bell did the huge contingent of horses) and for two successive years; currently consultant to all-horse parade for Tucumcari Rawhide Days; ran Christmas de los Caballos All-Equine Toys for Tots Parade for the last three years and designated Parade marshal for the Sandoval Cty Sheriff's Posse for this year; organizer with Jackie Cronenberg of the ongoing Robert Taylor Carriage Driving Clinic; organizer of Celtic Horse Breeds Demonstrations for the Celtic Festival & Highland Games in ABQ in May for the last four years, currently doing same for the first time to the Moab (Utah) Celtic Festival; organizer for many events/lectures/forums/clinics for CHAMP; as Chair of the Corrales Equestrian Advisory Commission, accomplished mounting of "Horse Capital of N.M." signs at entrances to Corrales as a way of raising awareness of safety for horses and horse-drawn vehicles on N.M.'s roadways, & now modifying traffic safety law, implementing equine census and emergency evacuation plans; planning and on-the-ground work with staff (BLM and USPS) for building equestrian trails in the Ojito Wilderness and Tent Rocks; serving the Rio Grande Trail Commission in planning facilities, access and equine representation on this proposed (and in places, extant) national trail system; introduced and organized N.M.'s first Large Animal Rescue training programs (we were the last state in the Union to do so) with the assistance of CHAMP and the NMHC.

In the planning stages: a state-wide ride into Santa Fe from all surrounding areas and by invitation to any/all N.M. horse groups and tribes the 9th and 10th of August to commemorate the 1680 Pueblo Revolt, to become an annual event. Continue to expand multi-use trail safety and education in N.M. I believe in the sharing of information and goals between all of N.M.'s equestrians via events, awareness and media for our shared benefit. And continuing to publicize, create, and

support events with youth groups and all disciplines celebrating the heritage and historical place of horses and their safety in New Mexico in any way possible— and having fun and supporting the NMHC while doing it.

**Jennifer Griego - Albuquerque, NM**

Horses in our community can serve many different purposes, have many benefits, and create connections and bonds between people within our community. Through education, and unity for a common goal, we can bring together people from all aspects of the equestrian world. Growing up I was always around horses, as my father used to breed and train them. Now, it has continued as a lifelong passion of my own. As a wife, mother, business owner and Realtor I have been very active in the community and continue to participate in various activities. I am very grateful for the various opportunities I have had in the horse community and have built my career around what I love.

Throughout the years I have had opportunities to volunteer in various programs from working with disabled children and giving them the opportunity to be around and work with horses, to veteran based horse programs, the Horse Shelter, Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico, as well as helping my daughter in 4-H and prepare her for 4H rodeo.

With the dedication of much of my spare time to horses, the different programs I am currently in and have been a part of, my knowledge and the connections I have come to know in the horse community, I have built my life and career around what I love. I look forward to this opportunity to continue to help others within the horse community and help to find solutions for the concerns important to us all.

**Chris Gutierrez - Clovis, NM**

As a native Texan and now a resident of New Mexico for the last 20 years I have come to admire and respect the love that we can have for our horses. I read your email earlier today asking for candidates for positions that you have available on your Board of Directors and felt that this is something I would like to give my time and effort to.

Born and raised in Boerne, Texas I spent most of my time on my grandfather's ranch in Comal County. The ranch was sold in the 1998 shortly after I moved to New Mexico to finish my college education at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales. On the ranch we ran a 500 head cow/calf operation using Quarter Horses to do our work. This was the beginning of my love for horses. In Portales my family farms and runs a cow/calf operation in Arch, New Mexico. This gives me the opportunity to use my horses weekly. They are more therapeutic than anything. I am employed with Phibro Animal Health where we manufacture and support nutritional supplements to the beef, poultry and swine industries. With my wife and me living in Clovis I of course support the beef/dairy side of the business. This position allows me to travel all over the state to help farmers and ranchers to have healthier livestock by means of proper nutrition.

Thank you for consideration as a Board of Director member.

**Sharon Hernandez - El Paso, TX**

I am a native of southern California and I moved to Texas because of the military. I am a disabled veteran, and can no longer work I do a lot of volunteer work mostly from home or in my surrounding community. I started a business that my husband now runs selling horse tack new and custom online and with local vendors. I am a college graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. I have applied to the Texas A&M Horticulture certification program which will help further my studies for my and my families small business ventures. (I create small ranch plants for the business to sell with local vendors along with the horse tack). We also invested in 3 acres of land for a horse ranch, which now holds 3 registered Arabians, and a Quarter Horse Thoroughbred mix mare, my horses are pleasure riding horses. I have my ranch in a nice part of New Mexico where I know all of or most of my neighbors who are avid equine people. I learn from their hands on training, many horse ranches and clubs want to see more equine related activities around the community. I feel being part of the board will allow for a positive direction for the NMHC and the avid equine community I will dedicate time and effort to help others. Industry support and fundraising will be part of my goals along with education and information related to equine activities and services.

I volunteer my time to my community on my own, serving on the New Mexico Horse Council will allow me to meet more people from my community. Help those that I can and bring innovative ideas to create new opportunities for future equine activities. Please consider me for the NMHC Board of Directors.

**Ron Morris - Belen, NM**

I have been on the New Mexico Horse Council for 6 years and have been in the horse business in New Mexico for over 40 years. I'm currently active with several local and national organizations as a trainer, breeder, judge and clinician. I continue being active in the industry as a show manager, national director plus I still train and show. It has been a honor to be working with many wonderful members of New Mexico Horse Council. Thank You for consideration on the NMHC Board of Directors

**Linda Threet - Moriarty, NM**

Although born and raised in Southern California, she moved to New Mexico in 1997 for a more peaceful environment to raise her two kids. She studied under many different trainers in many disciplines, producing well trained horses, ponies and mules. She has held many judges cards and developed many champions. Owner/trainer/instructor of show stables for 11 years in San Diego County. At one time hauling 28 students to 3 different shows every weekend, from dressage, hunter/jumper, AQHA and local, county, state and national shows. Co-founded the Twin Oaks Valley Trails Council in San Marcos, CA. Innovator of the "clinic-style" schooling show. Experience includes showing and judging Southern California horse show circuits, hippotherapy programs including "REINS", and after moving to New Mexico was primarily instrumental in re-establishing "CloudDancers of the Southwest", after it became defunct, a NARHA-accredited therapeutic riding program in Albuquerque. One summer she spent in New Jersey as the riding instructor at a Girl Scout Camp teaching 68 girls a day. She also spent a summer in Massachusetts at Camp Kingsmont managing the riding program there. Currently president of the Rio Grande Mule and Donkey Association, board member of the New Mexico Horse Council, newsletter editor of the Enchantment Driving Society, member of the New Mexico Carriage Association, Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association and the Santa Fe County Horse Coalition. She now enjoys riding her mule sidesaddle in parades and participating at El Rancho de las Golondrinas, driving for pleasure and competition, showing at the New Mexico State Fair, trail riding, and spending time with her grandson, hopefully turning him into a horseman. This year she and her mule passed the Carriage Association of America Driver Proficiency Program Level 1 Exam including the Road Driving Exam. Only one of five people in the state of New Mexico to achieve that accomplishment.

**Mariah Wilson - Albuquerque, NM**

My name is Mariah Wilson and I have been an active member of the horse community for most of my life. I am from Albuquerque and grew up showing Arabian horses to the national levels. After attending Albuquerque Academy for grades 6-12, I earned my business degree and have combined my passion for training with my education in business management. I own and operate Platinum Performance Horses based in the South Valley where we train top Arabian and Half Arabian horses and riders. My participation in the local Arabian Club has lead me to my 6th consecutive year on the Board of Directors as the membership director as well as sitting on the show commission for NM Arabian shows. I have been to the National Convention twice as an elected delegate for NM and have recently taken steps to certify as a carded Arabian judge. My program fosters some of the best young riders who compete in both the prestigious Scottsdale circuit and National level ranks. We represent several outstanding adult amateur owners finding new enjoyment from their horses both in the competition arena and otherwise. Our barn encourages the whole experience of riding and training from the halter up with true friendships resulting from hard work and dedication to their sport. The human relationships are also a wonderful joy to watch as riders bloom around their equine partners.

My involvement in the horse community is very much a part of my professional life as well as personal. My horses and those of my clients allow me to live the dream I have always had of sharing horsemanship with others and teaching/learning from the beautiful horses in my life. I have told many that I am responsible for the dreams of many little girls and I take the role very seriously. I know the true value of the spirit of the horse and how instrumental they are in creating compassionate and caring young people as well as being life savers for others emotionally. Horses and the amazing teachers I have had along the way surrounding them have truly shaped my entire world and I would like to give back in any way which might preserve the best interests of our equine companions. Networking and communicating with my fellow horseman is the best way to inspire change and preservation which I would be honored to expand my own activities and awareness of.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to meeting more of my fellow horsemen of New Mexico and being a more active contributor in your efforts for the horse community we are all a part of.

# New Mexico Horse Council Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 2017

Ribs BBQ Banquet Room

120 Nelson Ln, Los Lunas

1 PM

Cost \$25 per person

*Pay Upon Arrival*

Recognition of NMHC Horseperson of the Year

Board of Director Elections

General Membership Meeting

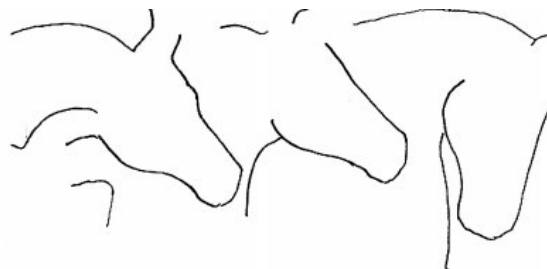
RSVP by January 10, 2017 to [danette@dmacalliance.com](mailto:danette@dmacalliance.com) OR call (505) 345-8939. Please let us know if you prefer a vegetarian option when you RSVP.

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## New Mexico Horse Council Foundation

Five really excellent applications arrived for the scholarship given annually to an outstanding New Mexico high school student. Allison Wilton of Fort Sumner was eventually selected, but all will surely be successes in their chosen fields. The Foundation now has to replenish the scholarship fund!

It's a 501 (c) 3 organization, so charitable contributions are deductible – mail to NMHC Foundation, P.O. Box 10513, Albuquerque, NM 87184.



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## Need to Advertise your Equine Organization or Business? Have a Monthly Sale? Standing a Stallion? Offer Training Services?

Beginning in January, the New Mexico Horse Council will accept ads for the newsletter. Cost will be \$20 per newsletter issue and should be 4" x 2" landscape. Contact Danette McGuire by January 2 to reserve ad space for January.

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## Large Animal Rescue Training Pays Off

Two years ago the New Mexico Horse Council along with Corrales Horse and Mule People (C.H.A.M. P.) helped sponsor a community Large Animal Rescue pilot program. The training was presented to first responders by Code 3 of Denver. That training paid off July 7 when a horse was rescued from an irrigation ditch near Corrales Road and Alameda. The rescue harness used on the horse was obtained by the Corrales Fire Department with the help of NMHC and C.H.A.M.P. A [story](#) appeared in the Rio Rancho section of the Albuquerque Journal.



## **NM Supreme Court Ruling: Agricultural Employers Can No Longer “Opt Out” of Workers Compensation System**

This summer, the NM Supreme Court ruled 4-1 that the provision was unconstitutional. Justice Edward Chavez wrote, “The Legislature is at liberty to offer economic advantages to the agricultural industry, but it may not do so at the sole expense of the farm and ranch laborer while protecting all other agricultural workers”. Dissenting Justice Judith Nakamura stated that she “understood the burden that may fall on small New Mexico farms and ranches in having to incur regulatory costs more easily borne by their large competitors in the agricultural industry.”

The Court did say that so long as no pay changes hands, workers’ compensation insurance is not required for trading labor. (“You come help brand my cattle and I will help you brand yours.”) But if you pay your workers, get comp coverage now. The Cattle Growers credited the New Mexico Center on Law & Poverty with pursuing the court cases, and refers readers to a “Frequently Asked Questions” paper by the Workers’ Compensation Administration which is now posted at [www.nmagriculture.org](http://www.nmagriculture.org). Caren Cowan, Executive Director of the CGA, also said that the “independent contractor” issue is settled by a test. For instance, if you hire a farrier with his or her own tools to shoe your horses on your property, you should get a copy of their insurance certificate.

However, this decision did not come out of thin air to affect small agricultural operations such as farms and ranches. There is history, going back to Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal initiatives in the mid-1930’s. From the Ohio State Law Journal, Vol. 72, #1, Recognizing the Racist Origins of the Agricultural and Domestic Worker Exclusion in the National Labor Relations Act, by Juan Perea: “There was no discussion of race and little discussion of agricultural workers in debates of the National Labor Relations Act. Unlike the legislative record of the Fair Labor Standards Act and other New Deal statutes, there is no direct evidence in the debates demonstrating overtly the racist southern interests in excluding most black employees from the legislation. There is, however, evidence that the politics shaping the NLRA were the same as the politics shaping the Social Security and Fair Labor Standards Acts. The original draft of the legislation that became the NLRA contained no exclusion of agricultural and domestic workers. However, the final version passed by both houses and signed (in 1935) excluded agricultural or domestic workers, and also redefined ‘employer’ to exclude anyone employing fewer than ten people.” This, even though several legislators argued that ‘it is a matter of plain fact that the worst conditions in the United States are the conditions among the agricultural workers.’ But many lawmakers argued at the time that administering the law for small employers and their agricultural and domestic workers was simply too difficult.

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### **New Mexico Livestock Board**

Each year, the NMLB strongly advises owners to vaccinate their horses against West Nile Virus. So far in 2016 there have been no confirmed cases in horses, but five people (there is no vaccine for people!) have become ill. 97% of non-human cases of West Nile virus in mammals are found in horses, and one-third of those affected die of the virus. Those that recover can be damaged.

On July 20, the NMLB announced the appointment of Ralph Zimmerman, DVM, as the new state Veterinarian. Dr. Zimmerman comes from seven years as head veterinarian at the Albuquerque BioPark and Zoo, and his first official day at the NMLB was August 15.

In other news from the Livestock Board, the EHV-positive horse at Ruidoso was euthanized and the quarantine was lifted on July 1 when no further cases were discovered. And, there are no reported cases in NM horses of vesicular stomatitis virus in 2016. [www.nmlbonline.com](http://www.nmlbonline.com).



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### **NMSU Equestrian Team a Victim of Budget Cuts**

In July, the university announced that “equestrian” would be eliminated as a cost saving measure. Over its 11 years of existence, the team has produced 10 All-Americans and currently has 26 human athletes on the roster, sharing the equivalent of fifteen full scholarships. Athletic Director Mario Mocca said all scholarship commitments to existing athletes will be honored, but university-wide cuts will result in the elimination of many positions. The elimination of the equestrian



program, defined as an “emerging” sport by the NCAA, will result in a cost saving of \$417,000 to the athletic department.

Two days later, the university said the team would be allowed to compete in the 2016-2017 season after all. “Our students are incredibly important to us”, announced NMSU President Garrey Carruthers, “and we should have given them more notice.” Bottom line: The NCAA is disappointed with the lack of growth of equestrian programs nationwide (there are 16) and considered removing the definition of “emerging sport”.

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### **NMHC at New Mexico State Fair**

Chairman Nancy Freshour reported to the Board in October that the NMHC outreach booth (directly in front of the Horse Arena) was open and manned during the entire duration of the Fair in September. At least one equine – horse, mule or donkey – was in the pen each day. Volunteers, as usual, presented a challenge to schedule (everyone is so busy!) even though Expo provided parking and passes. Income from the booth totaled over \$200, but this was 50% of last year’s income. All volunteers who participated reported very rewarding encounters with Fairgoers (the usual number of children appeared who had never touched a horse in their lives).

Kim Fay organized the volunteers, and here is a list of these good people: Jennifer and Allen Black (Jennifer also donated a massage to raffle to benefit Project Gelding); Cathleen Wilde, Virginia Gredell, Ron Morris, Berniece Zielke, Bon Bagley, Dan Key, Juliana Cojo, Val Cole, Danette McGuire, Mariah Wilson, Storie White, Holly Searer, and Nancy Freshour. Special programs were given by Dan Key (packing a mule) and Margret Henkels (conformation balancing).

Groups: Cloud Dancers Therapeutic Riding, Loving Thunder Therapeutic Riding, Paint Horse Club, Palomino Exhibitors Association, Platinum Performance Horses, Back Country Horsemen, Rio Grande Donkey and Mule Association, Team Aspen.

And who could forget the brave equines: Aspen, Tribute, Bacardi, Caesar, Rémy, Long John, Scarlet, Kirby, Breeze, and two from Loving Thunder. Once again, we proved that horses (ponies, mules, donkeys) are an absolute magnet. Equines = crowds; empty pen = bored volunteers. Thanks to Ron Morris and his coordination with Gabe Ortiz of Expo, we were given the space, tent, pen, furniture and a tack room.

Unfortunately, State Fair horse shows simply are not well attended (with a very few exceptions such as Western Dressage). People, the Fair should be agricultural; if we don’t support the horse and livestock shows, they will disappear. And if the show is over before noon, the Horse Arena is just a place with restrooms where you can get out of the weather if necessary. (In fact, the weather was mostly good this year, and the Expo manager reports an increase in visitor numbers of 8%.) Expo also arranged an acrobatic horse event, Cavallo, which gave several performances a day in a big white tent on the south end of Main Street.

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### **Shop AmazonSmile to benefit the New Mexico Horse Council Foundation**

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to New Mexico Horse Council Foundation Inc. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/76-0726741> and support us every time you shop.

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### **American Horse Council News**

The famously useful 2006 “Economic Impact of the Horse Industry on the United States”, commissioned by the American Horse Council Foundation with major support from other horse groups, was produced by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu. It used data collected in 2005 and followed a less comprehensive study published in 1996.

That 2006 study was extremely useful to everyone seeking data to put horses and the horse industry in the minds of non-horse people, particularly politicians at all levels. We hauled it around and gave it to absolutely everyone – our members, other horse owners, zoning commissions, real estate agents, horse related businesses, facilities management, federal trails managers – everyone! Particularly useful were the separate state breakouts (separate comprehensive studies of eight states), of which New Mexico was one. The NMHC received some undeserved credit for this, as the \$30,000 + extra cost was paid by the racetracks. In fact, the Board at the time refused to release our membership list for surveys, citing privacy

concerns. (That may be why rodeo, for one sport, was very under-represented and listed under “miscellaneous” although it is extremely active in the west and Southwest.)

In any case, a new economic study has been needed for some time, but the expense of putting one together has postponed it. However, the horse industry has dramatically changed, and now the Foundation is seeking to update the study in 2017.

The study will include, according to the AHC press release, expanded demographic information to include the impact that youth development has on the industry, as well as a more in-depth analysis of all segments – such as rescues, sanctuaries, and therapeutic riding centers. Proposals to conduct the study place the cost at roughly \$500,000 for the national study and \$20,000 for individual state breakout studies. The AHC intends to apply for several grants, and I cannot suggest too strongly that NMHC form a group to seek funding for a state breakout. It would surely pay off for all of us. In fact, any one of us can make a tax-deductible contribution to the AHC Foundation via check or PayPal.



Every day the AHC works  
to ensure the equine voice  
is heard in Washington, DC

*Help us continue to Put More  
HORSEpower in Congress...*

Support the AHC today!

Visit [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org) for more information

1616 H Street NW  
7th Floor  
Washington, DC 20006  
202.296.4031



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### **I Want My Blankie**

An article in Applied Animal Behavior Science recounts the work of a team at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences seeming to indicate that horses are capable of reading symbols on a sign and using them to convey whether they want a blanket put on them or not. They spent two weeks teaching the horses to “read” three different boards – one all white, one white with a black horizontal bar, and one white with a black vertical bar – to convey to the researchers whether they wanted a blanket put on, or not, or a blanket that was on removed. The majority of the horses made their choices, which seemed to be correlated with temperature and weather, and even “seemed excited at being able to communicate with their trainers in such a novel way”. I know I used to have a thin-skinned TB that stood by the fence next to the blanket rack in what I thought was a suggestive manner....



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### **Gait of “Ambling” Horses Linked to Medieval Genetic Mutation**

Scientists have studied the origins of the much prized smooth gaited horses to medieval England. According to the journal Cell, previous research traced the characteristic four-beat gait (faster than a walk, slower than a canter) to a gene mutation known as DMRT3, called the “gait keeper variant”. Now, scientists from Berlin’s Zoo and Wildlife Research studied the remains of horses stretching back to before 3,500 BCE (Before Common Era). They found the genetic change in two English



horses from the years 850 to 900 CE (Common Era, means the same as AD). The gait keeper variant was found in no other horse remains from mainland Europe, but was found in horses from Iceland between the ninth and eleventh centuries. So – researchers conclude that Vikings took the horses to Iceland and bred them there; meanwhile, English elite who could afford horses preferred the gaited model and selectively bred them. (Thanks to Bill and Jennifer Averill for this link.)

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### Calendar of Events

Have an equine activity you would like to share with the New Mexico equine community?  
Send complete details including dates, location, and website if available to  
[nmhc@swcp.com](mailto:nmhc@swcp.com)



January 14

NMHC Annual Meeting, Los Lunas @ Ribs BBQ; 1 PM, cost \$25 per person. RSVP to  
[danette@dmacalliance.com](mailto:danette@dmacalliance.com) or call (505) 345-8939

January 21 & 22

SWQHA show, Las Cruces visit [swqha.com](http://swqha.com) for details

August 11-13, 2017

ApHC and All Breed Horse Show Roadrunner Classic, Expo NM, Albuquerque Visit [nmaphc.info](http://nmaphc.info) for details

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*Note of Thanks: Longtime NMHC newsletter editor, Val Cole has decided put down her pen and step away from editing responsibilities. Val has been a great source of information for the New Mexico Horse Council, having been a member for about 35 years and the newsletter editor for at least 25 of those years. Val represented NMHC to the American Horse Council Coalition of State Horse Councils and served as their chairwoman from 2004 to 2006. Val not only knows what's happening in the equine industry she can tell you the background story of how each program or activity came to be and who was involved. She has entertained and informed the New Mexico equine community with her stories; we appreciate both her insight and dedication for 25 years! Join us in wishing Val (and husband Randy) much happiness as they move on to other projects (because we know Val is not one to sit on her hands and do nothing!)*

New Mexico Horse Council  
PO Box 10206  
Albuquerque, NM 87184

[NMHorseCouncil.org](http://NMHorseCouncil.org)  
[nmhc@swcp.com](mailto:nmhc@swcp.com)

## **Dues Invoice**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

For club or commercial members - please email a logo or photo in jpg format for the website to [rustycook4412@msn.com](mailto:rustycook4412@msn.com)

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_

Website address \_\_\_\_\_

Tag line \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Delegate name and email address (for club) \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Individual contact information is not shared with anyone. Commercial and Club information is published in the newsletter and also on the website. We will provide a link to your club or commercial website.

**Club or Commercial Dues:** **\$30.00 per calendar year** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Lifetime Individual:** **one-time, \$200.00** \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (if you wish; any amount welcome) \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

(Using PayPal? Go to [www.nmhorsecouncil.org](http://www.nmhorsecouncil.org) and follow directions.)

**NEWSLETTERS:** We send by pdf attached to email if possible. Otherwise, check here if regular mail is necessary or preferred \_\_\_\_\_

### **What is the Horse Council? What do we support?**

**Founded in 1970**, the New Mexico Horse Council is an all volunteer group supported by dues, fundraisers and donations. **Mission:** "To act on behalf of the New Mexico Equine Community through education and promotion of activities benefiting all equine interests."

- **Support the Horse:** Preserve horses as agriculture; Project Gelding; 'NM Horse Care'.
- **Support the Owner:** Equine Summits, newsletters, lobbying, brochures, liability signs.
- **Support the Rider:** Advocate for trails and recreation; circulate information; clinics.
- **Support the Horse Industry:** Communicate with state and local agencies; monitor equine event facilities; ally with other livestock and agricultural groups including outreach tables; distribute information from American Horse Council; maintain website, Facebook page.
- **Connect with the general public at the NMHC booth, Annual New Mexico State Fair.**

**Send Dues To:** **New Mexico Horse Council**  
Membership  
PO BOX 10206, Albuquerque, NM 87184



**NMHC federal tax status: 501-C-4. NMHC is a state horse council member of the American Horse Council and of the Coalition of State Horse Councils.**