



New Mexico Horse Council
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AUTUMN – WINTER 2014

(The teenaged Ben Green feels confident that he is close to being a good country horse and mule buyer at a time when horses and mules were the sole source of power for farming and all methods of transportation. In his short story "The Easter Lily" he has bargained for a beautiful gaited mare, only to find she is so barn sour that no potential buyer has ever been able to force her to leave her barn and home pasture; in fact, she earns a very good income for her owner as he continues to repurchase her cheaply. In spite of the mare's squalling temper fits and fights, Green manages to ride her many miles to his home, while she is being dragged by Green's favorite roping horse, which works on voice commands.) "The next morning it was a bad cold morning; I didn't much want to get out in the weather, but along about that time I did need to keep schooling my mare. So I fixed me up some feed and tied it to my saddle and rode out in another direction from town. I found a windbreak behind a little hill in the curve of the road and stopped there and poured the feed out on the grass for The Easter Lily. I kept up this kind of practice for about thirty days. I got the mare to where she was getting all the feed she needed and had begun to mend, and the skinned places on her were getting real well and the hair was coming back....I brought her to realize that a barn didn't mean much; it just meant she'd stand outside with a little hay. I had made her realize that any time she was being ridden, somewhere down the road she'd get fed. And that had made her decide that traveling wasn't such a bad thing after all, because the feed was at the end of the road and not back at the barn." Horse Tradin', Ben K. Green, Alfred A. Knopf, 1967.

Calendar

- October 31-November 2, Coalition of State Horse Councils semi-annual meeting, hosted by Horsemen's Council of Illinois, Pere Marquette Lodge, Grafton, IL.**
- November 3: New Mexico Horse Council Board of Directors Meeting via telephone, 7:00 PM.**
- December 1: NMHC Board of Directors meeting, Copper Canyon Restaurant, 7:00 PM.**
- December 4-6: Joint Stockmen's Convention, Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid. NMHC Booth.**

Happy New Year!

- January 20, 2015: New Mexico Legislative Session begins, noon.**
- January 24, 2015: New Mexico Horse Council Annual Meeting dinner, awards and election of Board members, hosted by the Komadina family in Corrales, 6:00 PM.**
- March 21, 2015: NM Legislative session ends, noon.**

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'Tis the Season

Many wait (including me) until December to make our charitable contributions – if you are deducting your 501 (c) 3 donations on income tax, they must be made by the end of the year, and by December we know what money is available. I would like to mention several worthy organizations to be found on our membership list, which is included in this newsletter. Visit



their websites to learn more. And there are so many others, too numerous to mention.

Current NMHC 501(c) 3 members:

- THE HORSE SHELTER**
- LISTENING HORSE THERAPEUTIC RIDING**
- LOVING THUNDER THERAPEUTIC RIDING**
- NEW MEXICO HORSE RESCUE AT WALKIN N**
- CIRCLES RANCH**
- NEW MEXICO MOUNTED SEARCH AND RESCUE**

And, of course, our own **NMHC FOUNDATION**. Although the Council itself is designated 501 (c) 4, and donations to it are not deductible as a charitable contribution, the Foundation is a separate 501(c) 3 which gives scholarships; find information at www.nmhorsecouncil.org. If you are planning to do any shopping from Amazon, please consider setting up a donation to the Foundation by starting at smile.amazon.com and (first time only) entering "New Mexico Horse Council Foundation" as your designated charity. Amazon will then donate a small (but they pile up) portion of your purchase (and future purchases at smile.amazon.com, until you remove it) to the NMHC Foundation.

NMHC Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, January 24, 2015

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Vista Hermosa Farm, 475 Corrales del Norte, Corrales

Cost: \$12.00 per person; a BBQ type dinner will be available. If you are inspired to bring dessert or something else, we will welcome it. Can pay at door. We'll also happily collect 2015 dues and have liability signs for sale (English and Spanish).

Who's welcome: Everyone! (in matters requiring a vote, however, only members vote.)

See more on the NMHC website as things are put together for a big party! (Speaker, awards, elections, more? New Directors Needed!)

RSVP (so we know how much food to order) to nmhc@swcp.com.

New Mexico State Fair 2014 – September

Expo management offered new shows and promotions in September, and the twelve



day Fair was also blessed with good weather. Both attendance and revenues increased, according to a report presented by General Manager Dan Mourning to the State Fair Commission on November 12. Based on preliminary figures, CFO Bill Nordin projects roughly a half million dollar profit when the books are closed at the end of the year.

Rodeos, including a Cinch Shoot Out and a Mexican Rodeo, were popular. Mourning said the stock contractor "stepped up his game" and the quality was appreciated by knowledgeable audiences. Management touted Main Street shows, contests, and the Midway, while trying to stick close to the original agriculture and livestock purposes. In every way, said Mourning, the Fair and Commission were getting it right.

However, the only comment on the state fair horse shows during the Commission meeting was "we are now going to concentrate on building the numbers". Many long time exhibitors at the Fair stayed away this year – with late show approvals and little information, they simply made other plans. Although out of town for the first week, I heard that the draft horse show was terrific. Numbers for some breeds during the second week: Paint, 21; Pinto, 10; Palomino, 6; Appaloosa, 19; Arabian, 3; Morgan, 5; Saddlebred, 0; and Hackney, 0. Some things worked very well: the Horse Hospitality Hut was friendly and forthcoming; the office staff outgoing and helpful; the announcer much better than the previous year. Mourning announced at the Commission meeting that Excel Associates of Erie, Colorado (a one stop show management company) would be contracted for the 2015 Fair, which should resolve frustration with scheduling, premiums, and approvals. NMHC reached out to Dauane Elkins of Excel during the 2014 Fair with an offer to help make the horse shows successful in any way possible.

Horse people – and equines – welcomed the public to the **NMHC State Fair booth** and





tent during the run of the Fair. We shared the area with Walkin N Circles Horse Rescue, so there were horses and people every day. NMHC also had a steer head (thank you Ron Morris) on a straw bale (thank you Ralph Wilson of 4-Way Feeds for the straw, and hay and shavings for our equines) *and* we sold “kid ropes” as our promotion. On my days, I was the poster woman for someone who would starve if she had to rope supper, but there were an amazing number of spectators who were pretty darned good at it. We sent 90 ropes home – “Don’t rope your sister! Or the dog!” And the NMHC button machine had a good workout as well. With luck some of those horse care, trails, and horse industry brochures that went home will be read. And people will be inspired to support and join the Horse Council. The horses, donkeys and mules themselves are the magnets, however; when they arrived the fairgoers followed, in under thirty seconds.

The final weekend “the horse” was Aspen, who dressed up fancy and brought her owner, Nancy Freshour, along. Aspen didn’t really care for the stall, but did love standing around putting her head in wheelchair laps and allowing children to sit on her saddle for photo ops. It takes a very special horse to do all of that, but Aspen is a veteran of school, hospital and senior center visits as well as being a champion trail horse.

Rodeo Queen Contest. (Dick Hensleigh). “I had the honor and privilege of being a judge for the 2015 State Fair Queen contest, along with Julie Wilson of Cundiyo and Bridgette Honea of Albuquerque. We had a wonderful time watching them ride, interviewing them, and listening to their speeches. All ten contestants were outstanding representatives of their communities. Besides outstanding horsemanship skills, they were poised and attractive in their formal attire. Their speeches reflected their love of their families, communities and the state of New Mexico. They are well on their way to

their goals: improving opportunities for other young people. Difficult though it was, we were proud to announce that the 2015 Queen was Janna Mills of Colfax County, with 1st attendant Cami Belcher of Eddy County and 2nd attendant Leslie Ramzel of Dona Ana County. The State Fair Queen staff is headed by Temple Daniels Palamara (a former State Fair queen herself) and they presented a first class event.”

(Note: all three judges are current and/or former members of the NM Horse Council.)

The 2015 Fair will be one day shorter; opening on Thursday, September 10 and closing Sunday, September 20.

Coalition of State Horse Councils
 Pere Marquette Lodge, Grafton, IL
 October 31-November 2, 2014
Host: Horsemen’s Council of Illinois

A long, long time ago (or so NMHC members were told) the American Horse Council did not value the State Horse Councils as they do now. In fact, prior to current President Jay Hickey’s tenure, the former head privately told the NMHC delegate, Sallie Pennybacker, that “AHC does not need the State Horse Councils”. The Councils were grouped as the SHCAC, the State Horse Councils Advisory Committee. Time passed; AHC realized that State councils were their grassroots (even if they could not contribute a significant percentage of the organization’s income).

Now, the committee has re-formed as the Coalition of State Horse Councils, and delegates meet twice a year – once at the American Horse Council’s Annual Meeting and National Issues Forum in June, and again in autumn hosted by a state Council. The first day’s theme was “National Issues, Local Impacts” and covered animal rights, wild and feral horses, building strategic alliances; dinner and reception at a winery, a Hallowe’en Hat party, and a presentation on Equine Law: “They Can’t Sue Me For THAT, Can They?” Saturday began with a working breakfast, continued through a working lunch, and finally ended with a dinner at the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center. With a theme of “Cooperative Collaborations and Strategic Alliances”, seminars





explored how to extend a state Council's influence in fundraising, trails, and relationships with groups with similar aims. The final presentation covered Equine Infectious Anemia and EIA Policy as a case study. The conclusion: repeated EIA testing, given the extremely small number of positive cases found, may not really be needed and is a burden on the horse owner.

Sunday was devoted to the CSHC business meeting. Other officers (Chair, Jean Ligon of Michigan; Vice-Chair, Bill Scebbi of Colorado; Financial Liaison, Glen Eaton of Minnesota and Parliamentarian, Lee Sackett of Wisconsin) had been elected in June; at this meeting, Sue Gray of North Carolina took over the secretary's position. Attendees also planned to review all past plans and policies (continuity can be a problem with changing circumstances in State Councils and bringing new delegates up to speed). They will then plan strategies to "move forward together" with some changes in plans for the June 2015 meeting and changes in state council report formats for the November 2015 meeting.

Minnesota Horse Council looks forward to hosting the CSCH FALL Meeting, Oct. 30-Nov.1, 2015 in Bloomington, MN: Best Western Plus Hotel (by Mall of America, 1901 Killebrew Drive, Bloomington, MN 55425. Room rate will be \$94 plus taxes per night; breakfast included; complimentary WiFi plus airport shuttles

The Coalition is not only healthy, with a growing treasury, but its status as a Coalition allows independent positions by the states on some issues, while working closely with AHC to the mutual benefit of both. The Horsemen's Council of Illinois had negotiated an excellent room rate in a destination lodge, and found sponsors for each meal and breaks. The CSCH meetings are open to all state horse council members in addition to delegates and alternates. The Fall 2015 meeting held in Minneapolis, MN, will be followed by the 2016 meeting in Kansas.

Networking. At the meeting, an ongoing discussion about liability signs and equine law continued. Many Councils sell liability signs required, or suggested, by their own state laws. Some mark them up considerably; one state deliberately manufactures signs that only last two

or three years, and the constant replacement is accepted by their state's horse owners as funding that state Council's projects. Others (New Mexico is one) produce a much more permanent sign that is intended to last. I saw one this summer purchased in the first year of manufacture, and although it was scratched a bit, it was still perfectly legal and readable. New Mexico Horse Council also prices our signs just above cost. We absorbed two manufacturer increases; however, the most recent mandated an increase in our price to customers.

NMHC LIABILITY SIGNS: the 16" x 20" metal English signs now cost \$18.00 each, plus packing and shipping if they need to be mailed. Spanish signs, which are 12" x 18" and plastic rather than metal, are still priced at \$16.00 until the current shipment is exhausted and we need to reorder them. It's strongly suggested that every horse owner prominently post at least one, although *nothing* guarantees full immunity from litigation.

Between meetings, there is a lively CSHC Google group that compares disease response, state regulations (one recent topic discussed horse trailer drivers needing CDL's) and, most recently, pros and cons of structuring membership to take advantage of the Equisure million dollar personal liability offer to each individual member for \$20 per year.

Trails, Land Use (Ongoing)

Cat Parks. The *Santa Fe County Horse Coalition* has been very busy all summer. After horses were blocked from several multi-use trails in the Galisteo Basin, Coalition members met with officers of the Commonwealth Conservancy. Since they had received funds which specified bicycle and hiker use only, the Coalition put together a major fundraising trail ride and party, raising over \$6000 to fund a major peripheral trail open to horses. More than 100 equestrians were involved in the efforts. Establishing connections between Preserve trails and the Santa Fe Rail Trail is a major goal. And looking ahead, "What does NM have that no other state has?" And how is it best marketed? That would be Open Space, Gorgeous Land, Trails, a history with the horse, dry climate, location between the two largest horse markets and growing economies in





the US (Texas and the Colorado Front Range) – and the ability to put together good visitor’s guides. The NMHC Council members hopefully will step up to help expand contacts with other horse people and related industries.

Jeff Bingaman (from the Albuquerque Journal). President Obama will soon sign legislation that includes designation of the **Valles Caldera** as a unit of the National Park System. The legislation also sets aside 45,000 acres of the Carson National Forest in Taos County as the **Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Area** and also establishes the **Manhattan Project National Historical Park** in Los Alamos.

In the case of Valles Caldera, the NPS designation should result in increased public access and more protection and resources, while retaining the science and education program and continuing to restore the health of the forests, grasslands and rivers found in the preserve.

American Horse Council News and Updates – November, December

November 11: President Obama announced a series of executive actions relating to border security, deportation proceedings, and undocumented immigrants.

Comprehensive immigration reform has been a priority of the horse industry for many years. Many horse farms, trainers, and others have needed to rely on foreign workers, utilizing the H-2A and H-2B foreign worker programs. The President’s action does not fix or even address the many problems with these programs. It remains critical that Congress and the Administration take action on reform.

November 14: The American Horse Council submitted comments opposing the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers proposed rule to redefine “Waters of the U.S.” under the Clean Water Act. Although the Act contains exemptions for agriculture, terms are vague and unclear and definitions will create new confusion. In fact, the proposed definition could place almost all surface waters of the United States under the CWA, negatively impacting horse farms, ranches and racetracks in all parts of the country.

The AHC has also co-signed comprehensive agreements with other agricultural groups that oppose the rule.

December 13: The “Cromnibus” appropriations bill was passed by Congress and it is expected to be signed by the President shortly. Provisions affecting the horse industry include:

- \$871.3 million is appropriated for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Funding for Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant is set at \$19.5 million, the same as FY 2014.
- The USDA is prohibited from using any funds to provide inspectors at meat processing facilities that slaughter horses, continuing the current block on funds. Any such facility would effectively be prevented from opening until September 30, 2015.
- \$697,000 (the same amount as FY 2014) is provided for enforcement of the Horse Protection Act.
- The Bureau of Land Management is prohibited from euthanizing healthy wild horses in their care or the sale of wild horses and burros to be processed into commercial products.
- The EPA (see Nov. 14) and Army Corps of Engineers are to withdraw their “interpretive rule” limiting agricultural drainage and requiring a permit for dredge and fill material.
- The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act is extended until Sept. 30, 2016. The FLREA allows federal land management agencies to charge fees and specifies how they are used.

History? Or Urban Legend?

Historians: Can anyone confirm, or deny, that the City of Albuquerque was “in the horse business” in the early 1940’s? Here’s the story (or urban legend): Officials in city government acquired horses from the Zuni pueblo and branded them with a “ZO”. They were turned loose to run in an area from Lomas and Wyoming (unpaved at that time) where some chainlink holding pens were located to range eastward, all the way to Tijeras Canyon where water could be found. The City didn’t do anything with the horses, other than occasionally sending an employee out to shoot a horse to feed the big cats at the zoo. Eventually, the horses multiplied (feral horses seem to know about multiplication) and officials decided to clear them out. After





some difficulty, they finally signed a contract with Ramon Autry (uncle of Gene, and a major dealer) to round up all the horses in an area bounded “the foothills on the East, Kirtland AFB on the South, Sandia Pueblo on the North, and ‘civilization’ on the West. Autry hired riders – many riders – and eventually removed over 750 animals, to take the City out of the horse business.

Linda Davis honored – October

Linda Davis of the CS Ranch in Cimarron, New Mexico, was one of nine women named by the International Women’s Forum as “A Woman Who Makes A Difference”. Davis traveled to attend the IWF Hall of Fame Gala in Atlanta at the end of October to receive the award, and commented that the trip was wonderful. In announcing the award, Managing Director Chad Flemming said “The IWF considers her to be a change-maker, a force of nature, and a legend. We are proud to honor a woman who serves as an inspiration to countless girls and young women in the US West and beyond.” She is the only member of the IWF (now a member emeritus) from Northeastern New Mexico and the only one involved in agriculture. Other women honored were:

- Ophelia Cheung**, Justice of the Peace, Hong Kong;
- Ann Drake**, CEO, DSC Logistics, Chicago;
- Heidi Kühn**, Founder & CEO, Roots of Peace, CA;
- Chua Sock Koong**, CEO, Singapore Telecommunications LTD;
- Zanele Mbeki**, First Lady of the Republic of South Africa, 1999-2008;
- Heba Morayef**, Former Director, Human Rights Watch, Egypt;
- Teresa Valdez-Fauli Weintraub**, President & CEO, Fiduciary Trust Int’l of the South, FL;
- Carol Tomé**, CFO & EVP of Home Depot, GA.

We are proud that Linda is a member of NMHC.

Christmas de Caballos Toys for Tots Parade – November

Back in 2004, the first all-equine parade was held in Corrales, New Mexico. When it lost its sponsor this year, the Northwest chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico stepped up. The event is also part of the US Marine Corps “Toys for Tots” collection drive. Held on November 16, and successfully avoiding the very

cold weather of 2013, over 90 riders and leaders, and ten horse (or mule) drawn wagons, participated. Spectators handed toys to driver “Santa”, to join the piles collected at Village Mercantile and Dan’s. Many riders wore costumes, as did many of their mounts; Corrales officials rode in the vehicles, and the final horse was Corrales Horse Mayor Caesar, with owner and parade organizer Bon Bagley.

Saddles and Tack: Vigilance Required

Many know that brazen saddle thieves were operating in Corrales and Albuquerque’s North Valley this spring, bumping up the numbers stolen (there are always thefts) up to several hundred. The pair was eventually caught, and twenty saddles recovered. Where owners had filed reports, they were eventually returned – but many are permanently lost, and horse clubs held “branding parties” for tack while owners increased security. I found a pile of wood chips around my barn door lock on Easter morning (which explained why the dog shot out in the middle of the night and made a racket), and a neighbor half a mile away lost a good Circle Y – her lock was smashed with their own axe. One officer said the criminals stated that often they would take several nice saddles to the pawn shop, but turn them over quickly in the parking lot for a hundred dollar bill to opportunistic people waiting.

NMHC has a “found” saddle and is looking for its owner. It truly was found in a pile of trash behind a store, and the finder was visiting horse owners on our street, where he also lives, to see if it belonged here. It’s an N Porter of Phoenix double rigged western saddle, some damage, probably made in the early 1940’s and has a 14” seat. It also has commercially stamped initials and a stamped serial number. It’s been reported to both APD and the Corrales police, who took pictures but asked if we had safe storage. If it’s yours, and you know the initials and the number, contact us at nmhc@swcp.com.

New York City Proposes Ban on Horse Drawn Carriages

Bill de Blasio, mayor, promised in his election campaign that he would work for such a ban. The proposed ordinance would prevent renewal of





any horse-drawn carriage licenses, all of which would expire by 2016. He states that carriage drivers and owners displaced by the ban would qualify for “green cab” licenses, and the horses would be “sent to farms upstate”.

Horse-carriage owners say their industry is already heavily regulated, with the horses residing in large stalls, getting veterinary and farrier care, and taking five weeks vacation per year. Opponent Sarah Ralston, DVM, faculty member at Rutgers University, has visited the stables and ridden in the carriages. (Ralston, with the Rutgers Equine Science Center, spoke to the State Horse Councils Advisory Committee about her work on equine welfare when the New Jersey Horse Council hosted the Fall meeting.) “Was everything perfect? Of course not,” she said; “but the horses in the stalls were exhibiting no signs of distress or discomfort; in fact, the horses were acting perfectly content, munching hay or begging for treats. The horses on the street were calm, well-adjusted, well-groomed, and alert and friendly.”

If passed, she said, consequences could reach far beyond the carriage industry. “If this ban gets pushed through, anyone who keeps their horses in stalls without access to twelve or more hours of pasture daily, or asks them to work in any way, could be the next targets. The pro-ban websites have already started making noises about the racing industry and show jumping and dressage.”

The Rutgers Equine Science Center has studied horse and mule welfare in Charleston, SC, and suggests monitoring and collecting data on the NYC carriage horses.

Cambaytherium thewissi Ancestor of Horses, Tapirs and Rhinos?

Ken Rose, a professor at Johns Hopkins University, has been excavating mammal fossils for years in the Bighorn basin of Wyoming. However, since 2001 he and Indian colleagues have been exploring Eocene (50 million + years ago) sediments in Western India because it had been suggested that perissodactyls (odd-toed ungulates such as horses, rhinos and tapirs) might be found there. Working in an open-pit coal mine northeast of Mumbai, they found a “treasure trove” of teeth and bones dated as 54.5

million years old. Dubbed *Cambaytherium thewissi*, this animal had “teeth, sacral vertebrae, and hands and feet which are intermediate between Perissodactyla and more primitive animals”.

Discovery of these and other fossils suggest that the group may have evolved in India while it was still an island headed for collision with Asia. Rose said his team was “very fortunate that we discovered the site and that the mining company allowed us to work there,” although, he added, “it was frustrating to know that countless fossils were being chewed up by heavy mining equipment.” The owners have since finished coal extraction and covered the mine, although the team has found other mines in the area and continues to dig.

Nature Communications, 11/20/2014

DUES – IT’S TIME

Thank you to our 45 lifetime individual members. We’re not asking you! However, we do ask that you notify us of any change of address or email address – or a change in sending newsletters (it seems to be easier to send them as a pdf, but some need regular mail.

And Thank You to those who have already paid 2015 dues: Sid Gordon, Melanie Scholer, Kelly Wilder, and Loving Thunder Therapeutic Riding.

We hope that all the rest of you will support the horse council with your dues in 2015.

Commercial, non profit and club members receive two actual newsletter listings a year – this is the second – and a listing with a link on our website. Individual members do not have their information shared with anyone. NMHC is solely supported by dues and fundraisers, so we truly need you – and also hope you will help promote horses and the horse industry wherever you go, and take on NMHC projects as well. We should be putting the horse industry forward, and an idea is cooking for a legislative tour in the summer of 2015. All it takes is money and planning! And planning is well under way.

It is **not true** that anyone coming to the Annual Meeting is in danger of being elected as a director. So we hope to see you all at the Komadina’s on January 24.



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www.nmhja.org

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mariah.wilson88@yahoo.com

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jenniecr@q.com

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www.nmhorsecouncil.org 505-345-8959 nmhc@swcp.com

Dues Invoice 2015

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Club or Commercial Contact for newsletters _____

Club or Commercial website address _____

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

Club, Organization Dues: \$30.00 per calendar year _____

Commercial Dues: \$30.00 per calendar year _____

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Lifetime Individual: one-time, \$200.00 _____

Donation (any amount welcome): _____

Preference? NMHC 501 (c) 3 Foundation, Educational material, Outreach, Project Gelding, other?)

Total Enclosed: _____

(Using PayPal? Go to www.nmhorsecouncil.org and follow directions.)

NEWSLETTERS: **We send pdf by email** (if you prefer regular mail please check here _____)

As volunteer time and finances permit, NMHC projects can include: (contact us if you would like to participate)

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| NMHC Board | Membership growth | Trails and Land Use | Lobbying |
| NMHC Foundation | Fundraiser | Trail Ride | Zoning |
| Newsletter | Outreach tables | NMHC Annual Meeting | Awards |
| Project Gelding | State Fair Booth | NMSF Commission | AHC Contact |

Mail checks to: New Mexico Horse Council
Membership
P.O. Box 10206
Albuquerque, NM 87184-0206

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.