



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association Newsletter

March 2026

The Sport of Eventing, "Olympic Style"

The sport of eventing (also known as combined training) has evolved, and the interest in it has grown. At our program meeting this month, Wednesday, March 25, 7 pm, speaker Nancy Ambrosiano, president of the organizing committee for a summer series of combined training competitions, will explain how eventing can be fun for both English and Western riders.

She will also tell us about The Eventing X Games at Double Diamond Ranch, SF, in April. This two-day competition, part of the series, includes an Open House/School Day on the first day in which local riders will explore the three phases of event competition: cross country, dressage and stadium jumping - including an introduction of how combined training is actually an Olympic sport! There's something for all riders of any discipline, age or stage of riding.

Nancy is a former combined training rider, active trail rider, casual dressage rider and one of the Masters of Foxhounds at Caza Ladron Hunt, SF.



Articles & Pages

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Reminder: We meet at Dr. Field Goods Kitchen, 187 Paseo De Peralta, DeVargas Center, SF. The closest entrance to the restaurant is on the south side of the center. There is plenty of parking. Join others for dinner at 6 pm in the main restaurant area. Please be in the separate meeting room a few minutes before 7 pm.

Renew Your Membership!

“Dues Are Due” Now



Thanks to everyone who has renewed or joined NNMHA recently! If you haven't, now is the time! Memberships run from January – December. You can renew or join online at: <https://nnmha.org>, then click on Membership. You may pay there, using either a PayPal account or a major credit card (with secure processing through PayPal).

If you aren't sure if you renewed or what to double-check, contact Jay Diamonon, who heads up our membership program: jay.diamonon@gmail.com, 713 303-1004. He can answer your questions about your membership.

Coffee Chat is Tues., March 10

Stop by our next Coffee Chat month on Tuesday, March 10, 9 – 11 am, Big R, 725 Saint Michaels Drive. We meet in the employee lounge. Come as you are! It's also "Senior Tuesday," so customers 62 and older with a valid government-issued ID get up to 10% off purchases.



Get Ready for Extreme Cowboy Clinic



It's new, fun and anyone can compete in this fast-growing equine sport. For the first time in SF, this two-day clinic is tentatively scheduled Saturday-Sunday, May 9 - 10.

NNMHA is working closely with Extreme Cowboy Association on this clinic (extremecowboyassociation.com). Dozens of events are held throughout the country each year, culminating in a world championship. Riders from the ages of 7 and 55 and over compete in classes ranging from horsemanship to obstacles to flag races.

Save the dates now! Details will be available next month in our newsletter and online: nnmha.org/events.

State Veterinarian Offers Great Advice about Current Equine Health Concerns



“My number one job is protecting you and making sure you guys can continue to do the things that are important to you...and for people who make their living off livestock in New Mexico...[to] raise their families and keep them here.”

At our monthly meeting in January, State Veterinarian Samantha Holeck spoke to a crowd of over 30 people about her role in managing risks to our animals of all types. Along with her small staff (two field veterinarians and two office administrators), she coordinates “regulatory medicine” for everything from pet dogs and cats to commercial poultry and ranching operations.



She has been our state vet since late 2023, grew up in a ranching family in Carlsbad and previously ran her own large-animal practice there for fifteen years.

She noted that although elsewhere the state vet is usually part of the state department of agriculture, that in NM her office is part of the NM Livestock Bureau (NMLB). That different connection is especially appreciated during disease outbreaks when the small staff of her office can work closely with livestock inspectors posted throughout the state to monitor and counter the spread of potentially infected animals.

The good news is that our state has a relatively large number of livestock inspectors compared with other states, even if they are spread over a large area. And, her office also leans into the Department of Agriculture for helping with communication to encourage others to check the State Veterinarian website for specific information and sign-up for email notifications.

To update us on current issues facing horse people, Dr. Holeck focused on describing three illnesses affecting equines:

- Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1)
- Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)
- The probable migration of New World Screwworm (NWS) into NM.

Last November, there was an outbreak of EHV-1 that perfectly illustrated the role of the State Veterinarian. Here’s what happened: Horses at a large event in Texas met each

other, then returned home or on to other competitions. Dr. Holeck's office was quickly in contact with counterparts in multiple states and the USDA. Together, they coordinated contact tracing to reach out to owners, required transport "holds" for animals who were known to have been exposed and "quarantined" three animals who contracted the disease. Thankfully, all the horses in NM recovered and the outbreak is considered closed.



Dr. Holeck said EIA is a disease typically spread through biting insects rather than direct contact. It is detected using the Coggins blood test. Although there have been only a few cases in NM over recent years, it's a perennial serious concern because it is often deadly and surviving equines are permanent carriers, requiring euthanasia or isolation for the remainder of their lives.

An outbreak last year in the southwest affected 22 horses, and it was likely made worse by contaminated veterinary equipment. She added that her office has made positive changes to handling detections and protocols for EIA.

Regarding screwworms, Dr. Holeck reported that it's only a matter of time before New World Screwworm (NWS) returns to NM. These "housefly"-sized parasites lay hundreds of eggs in open wounds or on the mucous membranes of any warm-blooded animal. Targets are newborn animal umbilical cords. Within 12-24 hours, the eggs hatch and the larvae burrow into the live flesh.



She added that the infected sites are very painful and depending on the infestation, host animals may die within days. Between 7-10 days, the larvae mature and drop off into the soil to pupate into the adult fly. The rapid life cycle (2-3 weeks) means that populations can boom quickly.

NWS was considered eradicated in the U.S. in 1966 when biologists had exploited the fact that the females only mate a single time. Flies were "farmed" in laboratories, male flies were irradiated to cause sterility, then those neutered males were

strategically released in large numbers to break the reproductive cycle. This is a slow but effective control method, but both the U.S. and Mexico had been very successful by the 1990s at employing it to eliminate fly populations north of Panama.

Unfortunately, the flies are north again beyond two natural boundaries (two narrow land bridges) and are within a few hundred miles from the southern U.S. border. In November 2024, the U.S. ports with Mexico were closed to the import of cattle and continue to be closed now. Unfortunately, flies may be transported "naturally" through the movements of feral swine and other wildlife.

Detection and control will be difficult. Dr. Holeck said adult flies don't tend to congregate around animals and look like a similar, non-problematic native fly. The eggs



and young larvae are tiny but grow quickly. And mature larvae bury themselves beneath the ground to pupate.” Currently, the only laboratory in the world producing sterile males is in Panama; but even at 100 million sterile flies per week, that is insufficient to halt this current epidemic.

Another lab in Mexico is expected to come online this year and nearly double production, but that still may be insufficient as even the effective distribution of these males is difficult. They are very short-lived and must be released in huge numbers to have a positive effect. A lab is planned for Texas, but construction has not yet begun.

Dr. Holeck added that we are fortunate that one of our field vets, originally from Colombia, has been asked to work with U.S. Department of Agriculture officials to observe and collaborate on Mexico's tremendous effort to control the spread. That helps our office is getting direct information on potential control measures.

There are currently two drugs approved for use to treat cattle and two for dogs and cats. Ivermectin is useful, but flies are developing resistance, so blanket use of the drug is discouraged. The best recommended preventative is practicing good general hygiene to reduce the attraction for flies of any sort and close monitoring of animals, especially those with wounds.

Thank you, Dr. Holeck, for also answering our questions about West Nile Virus, requirements for registration of equines with the NMLB and the path for becoming the State Veterinarian for NM, and other inquiries. We always welcome and appreciate your expertise!

Thanks to Karen Denison for this toothy article, and kudos to Karen and David Lyles for the photos.

Welcome New Members!

Kathryn Stedham is our newest member, so please welcome her at meetings and events.

Board Notes

Organization News

Approval of the minutes from the January meeting warranted a review of our policy regarding complimentary meals for our speakers. It was decided that we would do so for up to two people, our speaker and one guest or co-presenter.

Howard presented the Treasurer's report provided by Ralph Larranaga. There were no questions or comments.

Leanne summarized the proposal presented by a contractor to provide content and coordination of a variety of tasks, some of which have not been completed due to changes in advisor/volunteer roles. The Board approved a detailed proposal provided by the contractor. The contractor will be able to recruit volunteers among the NNMHA membership, preferring to avoiding additional operational costs for some tasks that could be handled by volunteers.

Jay Diamonon reported that we are a bit behind in membership renewals. Emails will be sent to members who have not renewed so far, and there will be another article in the March newsletter. Dues may be paid online at nnmha.org and are due now.

Karen explained specific events have been and still are listed on our website, nnmha.org.

Lynn has arranged rental for a secured storage unit to house a variety of items, including merchandise, signage, meeting supplies and print materials. Several Board members and advisors will have access.

Lynn provided an overview of the request from the Moreno Valley Angels, a 501(c)3 organization, that provides students through the Eagle Nest (NM) Horse Program to outdoor equine education and horsemanship experiences. Students participate in weekly classes during physical education, and learn about horse breeds, anatomy, safety, health care and hands-on equine activities. It serves about 80 students at the Eagle Nest Elementary School. The Board approved a donation to support this program and is interested in scheduling an on-site visit.

Rose and Howard discussed a location for our summer social. Regular monthly program meetings are scheduled through May.

David Lyles said the trail signs ordered by SF County are still in production. He will continue to coordinate with the County.

Howard and others discussed the County's COLTRAC committee's query to NNMHA requiring equestrians to wear helmets. The general discussion veered toward questioning the ability to enforce such a regulation. We will send a written reply.

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm via zoom. Members are welcome to attend meetings, so contact a Board member anytime for details.

Events, Rides & Clinics

Amelia said the North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) competitive trail riding event on June 27 is at Ghost Ranch. NATRC hosts rides in six regions across North America.

Do You Know...

How to balance warmth and well-being in a barn regarding proper winter ventilation? According to the University of Minnesota "Horse e-Newsletter," good ventilation is key to you and your equine's health. A tightly sealed barn can trap moisture, dust and ammonia from manure, urine, soiled bedding, water buckets, wash bays and even our horse's breath.



Whether you use mechanical or natural ventilation, make sure there's a continuous source of fresh air and make sure fresh air reaches all stalls. Signs of poor ventilation include water dripping down walls or windows, frosty glass on the inside of windows and/or a strong pungent odor from a built-up of ammonia. If you experience burning eyes, nose, coughing or headache, you and your critters are feeling the effects of ammonia exposure.

Whether you own or board, here's a tip: take a whiff of the air periodically, especially during winter. Think of the expression, "The nose knows." And if a friend or neighbor is planning to renovate or build a barn, pass along these tips. If in doubt, a veterinarian can quickly check for proper ventilation.

Bulletin Board

Bulletin Board is a "one-stop shop" for all equine-related products, services and events. Current members may submit listings of no more than 80 words. Be sure to include a name, brief description and website, phone and/or email for contact purposes. We can't edit fliers or other materials provided to us and be assured of describing your news accurately. Send your listing to: Sandra: smithcom@goldengate.net. At any time, let us know if you need your current listing removed or changed. We rely on members to keep their info correct and up to date.

Classifieds

STUART H. GARBER, DC, PhD, AVCA

Equine chiropractor. Equines and canines, but also happy to treat any critter with a spine. By appointment. Call: 505 913-7493.

NORTHSIDE BOARDING

Ride out on miles of trails, five minutes from NM599/La Tierra Rd. Reasonable rates, relaxed atmosphere. Prices from \$500 to \$400/mo. for pens 12x60 and larger. Arena, round pen, three tack rooms, wash rack, trailer parking. Horses fed grass mix or alfalfa twice daily. Boarders provide extras, we feed. Owner lives on premises. Contact: Carolyn, Centaurus Ranch, 505 474-0821.

EQUINE PORTRAITS

Helen K. Garber is available to create a unique photographic portrait of your horse or you riding your horse. In sizes up to 10 feet wide. Can be printed on paper or fabric. Her work has been acquired by museum collections such as the Getty Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum archives of the Venice Biennale and the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences. Contact: Helen, 310 344-7883, www.helenkgarber.com (Helen K Garber Studio), mail@helenkgarber.com.

EQUINE BODY WORK

Susan Smith | Equine and human Ortho-Bionomy® powerful and effective therapeutic bodywork. Registered Instructor and Advanced Practitioner. Equine acupuncture massage, certified. Both in-person and online courses are offered. By appointment. Contact: Susan, 505 501-2478, info@susansmithsantafe.com.

BODYWORK AND MASSAGE

Sandy Benson offers Integrated Equine Bodywork and Massage, working with the whole horse to build trust, restore balance and release tension. Certified in Masterson Method since 2018, CST since 2005. Consider it an investment in wellness. Contact: sandybenenson@earthlink.net, 505 920-2497.

BOARDING AT RANCHO MARIPOSA

15 minutes from Old Pecos Trail in the Eldorado area. Indoor arena, outdoor dressage and jumping arenas, access to trails. Training and instruction available. We welcome equestrians of all disciplines! Call or text Anna: 505 490-0990, info@mariposasantafe.com.

SANTA FE PONY CLUB

The Santa Fe Pony Club is looking for new members, volunteers and sponsors as the new year begins. The Club welcomes 5+ ages (adults too!). For more info: lindsaylechner@gmail.com, www.ponyclub.org.

HORSE SITTER

Professional care of your equines and other pets while you are away. Extensive experience caring for horses, dogs, cats and other precious creatures. Experience as Animal husbandry Instructor, beginner riding instructor, wilderness guide, wrangler and Ranch Manager. Contact: Laurie, 970 390-5597, thepoetlaurie@hotmail.com.

HORSE BOARDING

Everything WESTERN Learn, grow, succeed and have fun boarding at Loal Tucker Horsemanship, Lamy. Professional trainer, cattle, mechanical flag, heel-o-matic, roping dummy on site. Group, semi- and private lessons. Indoor and outdoor arenas, round pen, six-panel Priefert horse walker, 12x12 stalls with runs, heated auto waterers, individual tack lockers, hot/cold wash rack, trailer parking, 40 acres of trails. Colt starting issues, refinement, showing. Contact: www.loaltucker.com, 505 466-3961.

EQUINE VETERINARY SERVICES

Offering an integrative equine practice, combining western preventive and emergency care, as well as Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine, including chiropractic, acupuncture and herbal options. Contact: Dr. Shannon Subasi, Los Alamos Equine Veterinary Services, 240 681-1125.

SEEKING PRIVATE BOARDING FOR ONE HORSE

Due to sale of the property where we board, we're looking for a private barn in the Eldorado/Lamy area with room for one horse. Request daily group turnout and some room to ride on property. Can be self- or partial-care and I'm happy to serve as backup for your horses. I'm respectful, tidy and low drama; my horse is respectful, herd experienced, low in pecking order and blind in one eye. Contact: Sylvie Anacker, 415 309-0162, asorges@gmail.com.

SELF CARE BOARDING

Arrowhead Ranch has self-care boarding space available for horse owners wanting to be more hands-on with their horses and their care. Roomy indoor/outdoor stalls with large runs attached. Includes water with electric hookups, outdoor arenas, SF river trail access, trailer parking, hay, grain and tack storage. Located in town off West Alameda. Clean, safe, gated. For more info: arrowheadsantafe@aol.com, 505 690-4955.

STABLING – SPACE FOR TWO HORSES IN SF

 Perfect for responsible horse owners seeking a quiet, private setup. 1+ acres of fenced paddock space with plenty of room for grazing and turnout. Corral is ideal for training, riding or separating livestock. Two clean, dry stables ready for horses or other animals. Outbuilding for tack, feed or tools. Open-sided hay cover, easy trailer access, water on site and secure fencing throughout. Convenient location offers quick access to town while maintaining a peaceful, rural feel. Monthly rate is \$500. Available now! Contact: jaramillojaqueline@gmail.com or text only 505 231-4105.



TWO SENIOR HORSES FOR SALE



24-25 year-old gelding (left) ridden primarily on trails for the last 15 years. Sound, has reining training and light handle. 24-25 year-old gelding (right). Trail experience, most popular children's horse at Challenge



NM in SF. For more info: 505 670-2924.

BRAND NEW PAD FOR SALE

New, never been out to the barn. Classic Equine Zoombang Zone Series. 3/4-in felt with Black Micro Suede Saddle Pad. Size 30x32". Regular price \$350...now \$300. I can bring it to Santa Fe or meet you in Albuquerque. Contact Nance: nance@swcp.com.



TRAILER FOR SALE

2019 Trails West Adventure Horse Trailer. 2-horse slant load, bumper pull, tack room w/water tank, Tack door organizer, drop-down windows (head side). Excellent condition. Service/maintenance April 2025; new tires, October 2025. \$10,000. Pictures available. Contact: L. T. 361 877-6451, LTUmfleet@gmail.com; Ruth 361 877-6520, RAUmfleet@gmail.com.

Training/Trainers

TERRY BERG TRAINING

Trainer offers lessons, training and show coaching, among others. Specialties include ranch riding, reining and ranch trail. Contact: sfcolores@sprynet.com, 505 473-4147.

LINDSAY LECHNER EQUESTRIAN SERVICES

Currently accepting new lesson students ages 5 + on your horse or one of the lesson horses and horses in training, focused on Dressage basics, introduction to jumping, trail riding essentials in and out of the arena and fox hunting. We travel to local shows and other recognized competitions in NM and surrounding states. Rancho Mariposa and other locations in the Eldorado/Lamy area. For more info, contact Lindsay: 513 850-5839, lindsaylechner@gmail.com.

MIKEL CARMON, M.A., EAL, TRAINING

Natural horsemanship lessons starting on the ground. "Horse Wellness for Wisdom" helps you learn how to "read" your horse, build trust and connection that makes you the leader in your horse's mind. With over 35 years of experience, my work promotes mental, physical and emotional wellness with individuals, couples, families, corporations, small businesses. (It's not therapeutic riding.) Equine Assisted Learning certified. Also teach harnessing and driving lessons, using my good team of mules, Bo and Jessee. Contact: Mikel: 307-277-1235, fc4126@gmail.com.

Clinics/Workshops/Events

Note: The New Mexico Horse Council (NMHC) posts fliers for shows, clinics and demos throughout the state in its newsletters. Go to: www.nmhorsecouncil.org and click on "News" to see any newsletter. You can also see info on NMHC Facebook.

The NATRC Region 3 (it includes NM) event is Saturday, June 27, at Ghost Ranch, near SF. For info: Amelia Adair, 720-563-1018.

Board and Committees

Officers of the Board

President	Howard Gershon	howard@reach-newheights.com	505 690-8433
VP	Lynn Allen	mlallendvm@gmail.com	505 595-4457
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	Karla Lauritsen	karlauritsen@hotmail.com	505 286-3732

Advisors to the Board

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	David Lyles	lylesphoto@gmail.com	214 587-4789
Clinics	Carol Marthens	luminaryllamas@msn.com	214 662-9616
Website/social media	Vacant		
Membership	Jay Diamonon	jay.diamonon@gmail.com	713 303-1004
Newsletter	Sandra Smith	smithcom@goldengate.net	505 983-0144
At-large	Karen Denison	redmule@kdt.net	505 469-2698

Website <http://www.NNMHA.org>
NNMHA Email contact@nnmha.org

Please contact any Board member with questions or comments about NNMHA plans or activities. We welcome your ideas. Board meetings are usually held each month, and members are invited to participate in Board meetings. Meetings may be online or in person. See phone numbers and emails for Board members.

NNMHA seeks to inform and educate our members and the broader northern New Mexico community with regard to equine wellness and equestrian activities. We generally do not take an advocacy position on such issues, but endeavor to keep members and others aware of developments that NNMHA deems may be of interest.

We welcome letters to the editor for publication. Please send letters to Sandra, smithcom@goldengate.net. Letters must be written by an active member and include a name, email address, phone number and full street address, as well as any information sources used in the letter. If used, submissions may be edited due to space limitation and other considerations.



Never, ever underestimate the importance of having fun.

Randy Pausch

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