



Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association Newsletter

May 2026

What's New with SF County Trails & Open Spaces at May 27 Meeting

NNMHA has been working with SF County Open Space Interpretive Ranger Rose Masters on a variety of equestrian topics, including trail signage. The county's open space and trails program encompasses 9,400 acres of open space and more than 75 miles of trails. That's a lot of land!

Come to our next program meeting, Wednesday, May 27, 7 pm. Rose will discuss trails – current and future – that you may (or may not) know about, and more. Bring your questions, as she will leave time for a Q&A after her presentation.

Her remarks promise to be interesting. Just what does an open space interpretive ranger do anyway? The answer is A LOT, and much of it has to do with outdoor folks like us. Her work encompasses everything from patrolling trails to creating exhibits. Recently, she even learned how to fix a broken windmill.



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Rose holds undergraduate and master's degrees from St. John's College, SF. She spent about twenty years working at Manzanar National Historic Site, a unit of the National Park Service in eastern California, where she led the site's oral history program. She grew up horseback riding and participating in 4-H. Sounds like our kind of person.

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.

Ridge Riders Headed to the Badlands

Back to the “Badlands” - Nambe Badlands, that is! Mark your calendar, Saturday, June 6, in the saddle at 10 am for one of our favorite rides. There are colorful rock formations and great views. Trail Boss Ed Srsic will be in the parking area at 9:30 am.



Directions

From Santa Fe, proceed north on Highway 285 towards Pojoaque. Go past the business district and turn right on Highway 503. The parking lot and staging area is four miles from the turn. When you see the Food Bank on the right, the gate and parking is exactly one mile on the right.

To sign up for any of our rides, register in advance and sign our online waiver at: nmmha.org/events. There, click on Ridge Riders. You must be a member for insurance purposes, and you may also become a member (or renew your membership) on our website. For questions, contact Ed directly at 415 305-3238, riders@nmmha.org. Happy trails!

Extreme Cowboy Clinic is First for SF

It's a first-time event for SF, so come, watch and learn from both hands-on coaching and actual competition. The Extreme Cowboy Association (EXCA) is a fast-growing organization that puts on clinics around the country. If you like obstacles and timed equestrian events, don't miss this!

NNMHA is hosting this two-day clinic, Saturday & Sunday, May 9 – 10, 8 am – 4 pm, HIPICO, 100 S. Polo Dr. There are still a few rider spots available, and auditors may attend at no charge. Riders and auditors, however, must sign up in advance and registration closes soon. **To register and for more info, go to: nmmha.org/events.** For specific questions, contact: Carol Marthens, luminaryllamas@msn.com, 214 662-9616.

- Clinician Sara Tyree, Sara Tyree Performance Horses, El Paso, TX, is a seasoned horsewoman, trainer and coach in cutting, cow horse, ranch versatility, reining, all-around competition and extreme cowboy racing. She placed in the top 20 in the EXCA World Finals Pro Division and earned third place in the EXCA World Finals Futurity.

- She is also an NCHA World Finals Top 10 competitor and a multi-year NCHA Oiler Circuit Champion and Reserve Champion. Sara’s teaching emphasizes practical horsemanship, cow sense, and versatility, helping riders and horses excel in all disciplines.
- On Saturday, Sara will run drills and teach proper stops that will be judged. The next day will include a review and practice of a real EXCA event, with detailed walkthroughs followed by a timed competition.

EXCA is the original and only recognized association for the sport of extreme cowboy racing. Started by renowned trainer and clinician Craig Cameron, it is specifically designed to invite riders of any age and at all levels to participate in a variety of different competitive classes. There are competitions worldwide, and they culminate in an annual world championship. To learn more about EXCA, go to: extremecowboyassociation.com.



Welcome New & Returning Members

Hello to new members and returning members (after a slight pause in their memberships). When you come to program meetings, please introduce yourself so we can get to know you. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Beth Carlson
Janet Chappell
James and Lisa
Ferguson
Tanith Fiedler
Anna Foy
Briana Gooch
David Gordon
Lisa Gordon

Jill Griffin
Andres Gutierrez
Debra Hagey
Hope Jarvis
Joan Kelly
Kaitlyn Kimzey
Judy Nydes
Dorothea Lotter
Kathleen Mackie

Lisa Reader
Mari Rubens
Consuela Sanudo
Virginia Shepherd
Jennifer Starkey
Kathryn Stedham
Kelly Torres
Penelope Vasquez

Combined Training is Eventing, & More



Eventing is also called combined training, and it has gained in popularity with both english and western equestrians. Nancy Ambrosiano and Lindsay Lecher spoke at our March program meeting about the sport and the Eventing X Games event that took place last month in SF. Other X Games this year were or will be in Flagstaff and Tucson, Arizona, Las Cruces, NM, Temecula, California, Parker, Colorado, Tyler, Texas and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The two-day competition in SF was at Double Diamond Ranch and part of this series. Each competition includes an open house-schooling day followed by the three phases of event competition: cross country, dressage and stadium jumping. Yes, it's actually pretty darn close to an Olympic sport, but open to all levels and riders!



“What we call a cross-country course can be easily done by a good ranch or trail horse. And show jumping at various levels is completely workable. You’re already doing western dressage,” Nancy explained. “Our X Games start at a ‘pole-on-the-ground’ level, and nothing is taller than twelve inches.” It goes up in steps to higher levels.



Nancy explained combined training offers something for all riders of any discipline, age or stage of riding. She reviewed the history of eventing by discussing its origins within an activity called the Cavalry Test. In this test (like the event itself), each horse and rider pace through three things - a dressage demonstration, cross country riding with obstacles and challenging terrain, and lastly, show jumping. Over time, it evolved to become the officially recognized test for modern eventing.



The test was originally designed “to show that horse and rider could do an elegant dressage test on the parade grounds, then be strong and brave over miles of solid cross-country obstacles and terrain and finally, have the resilience to dance lightly around a stadium jumping course the next day over colored poles that fall at a light touch,” Nancy continued.

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. Lindsay, a well-known area trainer, is also the Southwest Regional Supervisor for US Pony Club. Nancy is also president of the nonprofit group that sponsored and promoted this event and others in a series this year.

The Event Organizing Committee is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, and funding comes from entries, donations and sponsorships. Congratulations to Nancy and other board members for all their hard work. For more info: www.eventingxgames.com.

Editor’s note: Thanks to Leanne DeVane for info and Leanne and David Lyles for photos for this article.

Last Cup of Brew Served

We served up our final cup of Coffee Chat for the season last month. Thanks to Trish and Mike Hug for organizing these get-togethers again this past winter. Members, we're glad you stopped by for some good horse talk, a cup of coffee and a little somethin' sweet. We owe thanks to Big R for hosting.



Remember, "Senior Tuesday" (second Tuesday of each month) is throughout the year. Big R customers 62 and older with a valid government-issued ID get up to 10% off on purchases.

Thank You Note from Student

We helped sponsor the NM 4-H Virtual Horse Bowl in association with the NM State University (NMSU) extension office last year. The annual event involves more than 100 young students throughout NM (often in more rural areas). They learn about horses in a fun online competition. Recently, we received this note from one of the students:



"Thank you for sponsoring the (Horse Bowl). I learned a lot...I love horses and got to participate. Thank you. Love, Makayla."

Sadly, Dr. Jason Turner, Professor and Extension Horse Specialist, NMSU and the originator of the Horse Bowl, passed away suddenly in March. He was also a show judge, clinician, NMQHA board member, 4-H supporter, and more. We send our condolences to his family, friends and university community.

Board Notes

Organization News

Howard Gershon reported on the Treasurer's report on behalf of Ralph Larranaga. As of the end of March, our investment account reflected the market volatility with expenses as planned.

Howard reviewed the progress report submitted by our part-time consultant. Going forward he's confident that she can continue to complete the assignment, as an interim coordinator. This work is helping the Board and others create a more appropriate infrastructure to meet future needs. His recommendation to proceed was approved.

Karen Denison, in Jay Diamonon's absence, reported that follow-up is still underway in connecting with non-renewing members. If members haven't renewed, the Board agreed to accept renewals from them for now. Howard will touch bases with Jay on his progress.

Lynn Allen reviewed a sponsorship request from the Estancia Valley Ranch Rodeo Association regarding its Youth Ranch Rodeo, July 17, at Rodeo de SF. She said it offers an opportunity to network with our local equestrian community. Amelia Adair offered to staff a booth and carry a flag in the parade. Howard suggested a donation should be targeted to a specific item such as belt buckles. The Board approved this sponsorship with plans for some involvement, depending on availability.

We have received two applications for the annual Reyer Youth Scholarship program and expect others before the deadline of May 1.

Lynn and Karla Lauritsen are visiting the Eagle Nest Horse Program soon, following a postponement due to rain. This program supports equine education in schools in the area and may be replicable in other schools.

Rose Farley discussed the report she provided outlining the importance of more clearly aligning program meeting topics to our specific upcoming events, sponsorships and other NNMHA initiatives. The Board thanked her for insights. She also offered several program topics and speakers for the remainder of this year. Rose noted David Lyles has agreed to assist in planning and organizing future program meetings.

Regarding our youth riding program, there was discussion regarding how to create a sustainable experience with students that involve equines after they complete the program. Howard suggested a smaller group should address this issue.

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, May 6, 7 pm, via zoom. Members are welcome to attend meetings, so contact a Board member anytime for details.

Events, Rides & Clinics

Amelia Adair reviewed the revised budget that reflects an updated view of NNMHA's possible involvement in the North American Trail Ride Conference – Region 3 competitive trail riding clinic at Ghost Ranch, June 27. This is one of several rides that NATRC hosts throughout North America. In particular, there was discussion about an evening meal as a fundraiser. She should have a more detailed budget with input from Ghost Ranch.

Carol Marthens reported the Extreme Cowboy event still has a few rider openings and auditors are welcome to attend. At this time, the clinician is planning on a novice and a more experienced riding group during the event. Families and riders of all ages and abilities are encouraged to participate. A flier will be prepared for use to reach out to trainers and others to encourage participation. (See separate article.)

Do You Know...

Editor's note: A friend of mine who grew up in Luxembourg recently shared unique insights about mules and donkeys. "After WWI, my dad always talked about the mules brought to Europe by American troops during the war," she said.

"The mules were left behind after the guys went home following the end of the war, but the mules and donkeys stayed behind and helped save local agriculture.



"At the time, small farmers had become poor during the war. They were at the brink of not making it and could not afford horses. However, the "free" mules were sturdy and hard workers. Though a bit more temperamental than horses, the mules became favorite pack animals. Dad said that we owed a lot in gratitude to the U.S. mules and donkeys, and I have always had a soft spot for them. They can't do anything wrong."

According to another source, during WWI, around 80,000 donkeys and mules were recruited, in addition to horses, camels, oxen and messenger pigeons.

Even though mules and donkeys were slower than horses, they could carry far more weight and were easier to maintain. So, they became very popular among Allied troops and European farmers alike.

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 acupressure 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.

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. \$9,000. Pictures available. Contact: L. T. 361 877-6451, LTUmfleet@gmail.com; Ruth 361 877-6520, RAUmfleet@gmail.com. Please text or leave a message.



RAINBOW RIDGE FARM LLC

New boutique boarding facility located in Edgewood NM. Stalls with separate paddocks and daily turnout. Indoor riding arena, outdoor riding arena, round pen for training and trails off property and nearby. Self-care and full care, short and long-term options available. Two current openings. Contact: Sandi Hutchison, rainbowridgefarmllc@hotmail.com, 505 205-5452.



HORSE PROPERTY FOR SALE

9 Jacinto Road, \$900,000. Los Caballos Subdivision, SF County. Ten level acres, 20 miles from SF. Includes a 3,434 sq. ft. two-story, five-bedroom, four-bath house. Horse amenities with 2,818 sq. ft., six-stall horse barn, turnouts, tack room with half-bath, hay storage, arena and roping corral. Plus, a separate 1,805 sq. ft. workshop/garage with mechanic's pit. Contact: Penelope Vasquez, Associate Broker, 505 690-3751, penelopenewmexico@gmail.com, Sotheby's International Realty, 505 988 2533.



WESTERN SADDLE FOR SALE

Beautiful western saddle hand built and carved by noted saddle maker Slim Green with matching bridle and breast collar. Like new condition with 15-inch seat. \$1,200 or best offer. Contact: Howard Gershon 505 690-8433.



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 start 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.

Extreme Cowboy event in SF for the first time, May 9 – 10. (See separate article.)

The North American Trail Riding Conference (NATRC) - Region 3 (it includes NM) event is Saturday, June 27, at Ghost Ranch, near SF. This is one of several rides that NATRC hosts throughout North America. For more info: Amelia Adair, AJASantafe@outlook.com, 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
Treasurer	Ralph Larranaga	ralph@ralphalangroup.com	505 470-2277
Secretary	Karla Lauritsen	karlauritsen@hotmail.com	505 286-3732

At-large	Amelia Adair Leanne DeVane Ed Srsic	AJASantafe@outlook.com leannedevane@gmail.com esrsic@gmail.com	720 563-1018 505 469-1165 415 305-3238
Partnerships Giving Program Ridge Riders Community Outreach	Howard Gershon Lynn Allen Ed Srsic Leanne DeVane Karla Lauritsen	howard@reach-newheights.com mlallendvm@gmail.com esrsic@gmail.com leannedevane@gmail.com karlauritsen@hotmail.com	505 690-8433 505 595-4457 415 305-3238 505 469-1165 505 286-3732

Advisors to the Board

Program Co-chairs	Rose Farley David Lyles	rfarley@comcast.net lylesphoto@gmail.com	214 726-6013 214 587-4789
Clinics Website/social media	Carol Marthens Vacant	luminaryllamas@msn.com	214 662-9616
Membership Newsletter At-large	Jay Diamonon Sandra Smith Karen Denison	jay.diamonon@gmail.com smithcom@goldengate.net redmule@kdt.net	713 303-1004 505 983-0144 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.



*Be kind whenever possible.
It is always possible.*

Dalai Lama

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