NNMHA Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association Newsletter November 2026

Holiday Party!

Sunday, December 13, 3 – 6 pm

A favorite event of the year is our annual Holiday Party. This year, join others on Sunday, December 13, 3 – 6 pm. It's that special time of year where we enjoy a great meal, catch up with friends and make a few new ones.



We will also enjoy an acoustic band, playing your favorite holiday tunes. Plan to share stories about your favorite ride or show this past year and what you are looking forward to in the New Year. The Holiday Party is free for members.



Food Drive

Please bring canned and (or) other nonperishable food items in grocery bags or boxes for donation to the Food Depot. We'll deliver all items for you. It's such a worthy cause for our community.

Logo Apparel Clearance Sale

Maybe a gift for someone else or yourself? All the remaining men's and women's apparel (jackets, vests, shirts, and wild rags), are on clearance sale during the party. That's 50% off to make room for new items for next year. All proceeds help support

our scholarship fund. (Sale is limited to sizes and colors that we have and excludes hats and buckles.) Cash, checks and credit cards accepted.

We're meeting 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. See you then!

Reminder: There is no program meeting in November.

Board Voting Results Announced



We're pleased to announce the results of the Board elections. Current Board members Howard Gershon, Ed Srsic, Leanne DeVane and Karla Lauritsen are re-elected. Sophia Hoekstra is elected as a new member and David Lyles, who served as a Board member previously, rejoins the Board. All terms are for two years.

They join current Board members Amelia Adair, Lynn Allen and Ralph Larranaga, who were not up for reelection this year.

The two bylaw proposals on the ballot were approved by members. One proposal increases the size of the Board from seven positions to nine. It will be great to have the extra people power and experiences that comes with a larger Board.

The other change is that as new members join, their renewal month will be the month in which they join. For example, if Robert joins NNMHA in June, his membership will run from June to June. All current members will renew in December and that will be their renewal month.

NNMHA is fortunate to have a group of enthusiastic and well-regarded volunteers as Board members. Please feel free to contact any Board member if you have questions or comments about what we do – or aren't doing!

And, thanks to all who voted. Your vote helps NNMHA stay relevant to the needs and interests of its members and the equine community at large.

Thanks to Members - for Your Input and Ideas at the Oct. Program Meeting

Our October program meeting was an “ideation“ gathering designed to gain members’ thoughts about programs, events, workshops, clinics, and more, for next year and beyond.

Facilitators Howard Gershon and Amelia Adair handily got us talking about what our organization should be doing to support our mission of equine wellness and equestrian efforts.



In the next edition of *Paddock Paper*, we’ll report on member ideas and summarize key next steps. Thanks to everyone who attended and contributed to the conversations.

If you weren’t able to attend, please send your thoughts to any or all of these three questions:

1. What are the top 3 challenges facing the equestrian community in northern NM?
2. What is the most important things NNMHA can do to support a vibrant equestrian community in northern NM are?
3. What is your favorite thing about being a NNMHA member is?

Your comments are anonymous and will be added to those discussed by other members at the meeting. Send your ideas via email to: contact@nnmha.org. Thanks for sharing. We welcome your comments!

We Were at the Fall Festival!





Rancho de las Golondrinas is sort of becoming our second home. NNMHA volunteers and their equines were there earlier this year for the Spring Festival.

We were overjoyed (and so were our visitors) with our meet-and-greet then. So, we returned for the Fall Festival last month.



Master organizer Karla Lauritsen set up an info display about NNMHA, recruited and managed the handful of equines and their owners and scheduled everyone in shifts to be there over the two days.





Thanks to the staff at Golondrinas, everyone who was there with their equines and our roping experts who used ropes, hay bales and steer heads to teach roping skills. And, kudos to whoever ordered perfect weather for the weekend.



Please consider joining us next year. It's a fun opportunity to talk up equines with kids and adults alike.

"I Want to Fly" Said Driving Student & She Did, Thanks to Creative Thinking



Whether her topic was "Fun with my donkeys," "Everything you need to know about donkeys" or "My driving experiences," last month's program meeting speaker Kim Fay covered all these topics well. She started by talking about Budweiser…

"I treated my first donkey, Budweiser, like a dog, and maybe that wasn't the best thing," she laughed. "But, I like driving donkeys better than horses."

Kim said she also likes how the presentation and dress competitions change depending on the class. In some classes, gloves, vests and helmets are required, but Kim tipped us off that if the judge can't see your shoes, you can wear any kind of footwear.

State Competitions



She's traveled to several states to compete in numerous driving competitions – Traditional, Country Driving, Cones, Dressage, Marathon, and more.

Kim drives both two-wheel carts and four-wheel carriages, depending on the class. She said she particularly likes classes in which judges offer critiques about what they like and what the participants could do better next time.

Meet-and-Greets, Parades, and More



These days, Kim can also be found at the Spring and Fall Festivals at El Rancho de las Golondrinas with her donkey, Daisy Mae. Daisy is a crowd favorite who tolerates youth (and adults) endlessly brushing her, touching her ears and learning where to stand and not to stand around equines. She also demonstrates old-time plowing techniques at Golondrinas. You may also see her in parades and other events here and elsewhere.

Adaptive Driving

Kim also devotes a great deal of time giving driving lessons at Mandy's Farm. Here, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities learn life skills, create fulfilling lives through supportive and accessible housing and prepare for various employment opportunities.



Kim is now an integral part of Mandy's Farm's adaptive horsemanship program, where she teaches cart driving. Her lessons help students improve balance, posture and coordination, while strengthening cognitive skills such as following instructions, and building confidence.

Mandy's Farm is recognized by the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA), which sets standards, certifies equine professionals, and provides resources to advance horsemanship safety and education. The farm's adaptive horsemanship program is expected to become the first CHA-recognized program of its kind in NM.



Next steps for Mandy's Farm and Kim include acquiring a two-wheel cart to be used with ambulatory students and a four-wheel carriage that is wheelchair accessible. "We also need a variety of tack options to better serve individuals with different needs," Kim added.

So what does all this mean to her students? She shared a story about a young woman at Mandy's Farm who told Kim, "I want to fly," meaning the student wanted to learn to drive."

Kim and others designed equipment that would allow the student to learn how to drive safely. With training, a little time and an endearing focus to succeed, Kim's student learned how to drive a cart. And, by herself! Thanks, Kim, for sharing your success in driving and how that translates to more fulfilling lives of your students. Now, that's a good news story for the holidays, isn't it?

To learn more about Mandy's Farm and support its worthy endeavors, go to: www.mandysfarm.org; instagram: @mandysfarnnm; facebook: @mandysfarm.

Ridge Riders' Last Ride Cancelled

You may remember all that wonderful rain we received a few weeks ago. Well, it coincidentally occurred at the time of Ridge Riders' last ride of the season. Good news we got rain, but the not-so-good news is that we had to cancel the ride. Safety comes first, always. No doubt, Trail Boss Ed is already working on rides for next season.

Thanks to all who rode this year and made it another memorable season of rides in beautiful NM. Relive the fun of these rides and bring your stories to our Holiday Party on Sunday, December 13. (See article for details.)

Board Notes

Business News

Leanne DeVane provided an update on work a task force is completing, as it studies possible solutions for future organizational changes or enhancements. This includes the roles of Board members and others. Flow charts, job descriptions and specific responsibilities are expected as deliverables.

Lynn Allen reported she and Howard Gershon met with the owner of a large parcel of land near SF that was offered to NNMHA under certain terms. The Board determined that ownership of this property isn't doable for NNMHA. Lynn and Howard discussed the Board's decision with the owner and explained why doing so isn't feasible.

Lynn explained that we are hoping to identify a new software platform for our website and other online applications, probably with the help of outside IT expertise, hopefully early next year. Closer ownership of this technology is designed to improve membership interaction, among other improvements.

Tara Debevec and others discussed the process of sending election ballots to members for Board elections. Amelia Adair offered to handle any votes that need to be collected and tallied during the October program meeting.

The first edition of *Paddock Express* was issued. This timely-news-only email will usually be sent mid-month. Its purpose is to provide reminders with key info about upcoming events, such as program meetings, get togethers, clinics and other info that needs to reach members before the next edition of *Paddock Paper*.

Amelia reviewed progress of forming distinct committees that would address key areas, including member services, education and outreach, events, SGS Program, grants and development, finance and communications. It is planned that each committee will include two co-chairs (a Board member and committee head) to ensure continuity. These committees will be prioritized, so key issues such as member services will be addressed first.

It was emphasized how important it will be to identify skill sets that are needed on each committee and to recruit committee heads on a one-on-one basis. Relative to this initiative, Board members voted to approve the committee's work as of September 11.

Lynn asked if anyone is interested in attending an area meeting regarding trail development. She noted that Howard is planning to attend. The Board voted to finance our attendance.

The next Board meeting is Tuesday, November 3, 7 pm, on zoom. Members are welcome to join the meeting. Simply contact any Board member for details.

Events, Clinics and Workshops

Karla Lauritsen reported several volunteers and their equines participated in the Fall Festival last month at El Rancho de las Golondrinas. A favorite of the event was practicing how to rope, using plastic steer heads attached to hay bales. The weather was picture perfect, and this meet-and-greet was well attended by both youth and adults. More equines are needed to participate, so please contact Karla, karlalauritsen@hotmail.com, 505 286-3732, if you are interested in participating. We plan to attend the Fall and Spring Festivals at Golondrinas next year.

Leanne provided an update to our Partnership-Based Youth Riding Program. One issue she discussed was that riders who participate in the program often have difficulty getting transportation to and from the lessons.

Do You Know…



The Akhal-Teke is famed for a coat that can look genuinely metallic in sunlight. It has a lean greyhound-like frame and is one of the world's oldest purebred horses. Bred for millennia in the Karakum desert of Turkmenistan, roughly 6,600 of this breed exist worldwide.

Turkmenistan is in Central Asia, bordered by Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to the north, Afghanistan to the southeast, Iran to the south and southwest and the Caspian Sea to the west.

Turkmen tribes bred these horses for raiding and long desert crossings, selecting relentlessly for stamina, heat tolerance and loyalty to a single rider. The name pins the breed to the Teke tribe of the Akhal oasis strip along the Kopet Dag mountains, near the border of Turkmenistan. The mountain range runs northwest and southeast for more than 400 miles. The highest point is 10,466 feet.

It was nearly a vanishing breed 100 years ago, but modern Turkmenistan has swung hard the other way, treating the Akhal-Teke as a living national heritage. The Akhal-Teke is described as bold and quick-thinking. This sensitivity is the whole deal. However, with a consistent, fair handler they're startlingly willing.







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: sandybenson@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.

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.



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.

BOARDING AT SECTION EIGHT STABLES (FORMERLY HIPICO SANTA FE POLO BARNS)

Newly renovated barn stalls, 12x16, featuring Nelson automatic waterers and attached pens, 16x18. Covered pipe stalls, 16x16, are also available. Reasonable rates for self-care or full board. Full board includes grass hay or alfalfa, 2x/day. We will feed boarder-supplied grain/supplements. Arena, round pen, trailer parking and tack storage area. On-site trail riding, as well as direct access to BLM/Caja del Rio trails. Contact: Phyllis, call/text 505 479-2628 or email phyllis@hipicosantafe.com.

CAMPER FOR SALE



2024 Rockwood GeoPro G19FDS in like-new condition with less than 900 miles. Asking $27,000. Two-point heavy duty hitch with sway control (value $434), tire chocks and covers, leveling blocks, small grill. Kitchen slide and table make it spacious. Large bathroom with a shower. Outdoor shower, too. Lots of storage inside and out and a bike rack. The queen-size murphy bed is comfy and easy to use. The powerful rooftop solar panels, two batteries and two propane tanks are ideal when hook ups are not available. It is 22 feet and pulls easily with SUV. Selling only because it's not getting used enough. For more info: Karolyn, 303 579-2251.

SADDLE FOR SALE



Circle Y Flex 2 trail saddle. 15 1/2-inch seat, 7 1/2-inch gullet. Excellent condition. $1200. Contact: Lynn Allen 505-595-4457.

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.

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	Amelia Adair	AJASantafe@outlook.com	720 563-1018
Secretary	Karla Lauritsen	karlalauritsen@hotmail.com	505 286-3732
At-large	Leanne DeVane	leannedevane@gmail.com	505 469-1165
	Ralph Larranaga	ralph@ralphalangroup.com	505 470-2277
	Ed Srsic	esrsic@gmail.com	415 305-3238
Partnerships	Howard Gershon	howard@reach-newheights.com	505 690-8433
SGS Giving Program	Lynn Allen	mlallendvm@gmail.com	505 595-4457
Ridge Riders	Ed Srsic	esrsic@gmail.com	415 305-3238
Community Outreach	Leanne DeVane	leannedevane@gmail.com	505 469-1165
	Karla Lauritsen	karlalauritsen@hotmail.com	505 286-3732

Advisors to the Board

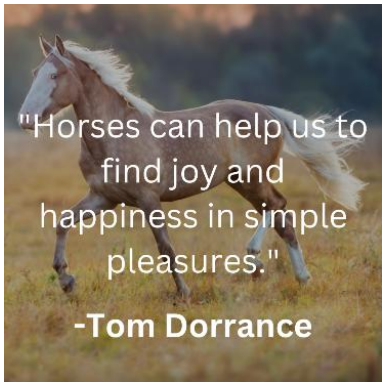
Meeting Programs	David Lyles	lylesphoto@gmail.com	214 587-4789
Clinics	Vacant		
Website/social media	Tara Debevec (consultant)		
Membership	Vacant		
Newsletter	Sandra Smith	smithcom@goldengate.net	505 204-2230

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.



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