



# Paddock Paper

Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association Newsletter

February 2026

## “Ranch Rodeo” Focuses Attention on Youth Ag & Veteran Groups

You'll hear more about the growing interest in Ranch Rodeo at our Wednesday, February 25, 7 pm, program meeting. Formed in 2020, the East Mountain Rodeo Association hosts its annual Estancia Valley Ranch Rodeo weekend event at the Rodeo de Santa Fe grounds. Nearly 2,000 contestants and visitors attended last year.



Chris Morgan is our speaker, and he will tell us what ranch rodeo is, the events the association hosts and how they correlate with working ranch activities. He is one of the original founders and is the chairman and event director since the group's inception. He has a background in ranching in the Texas Panhandle.

The association's focus is primarily on youth and veteran groups in the Estancia Valley. Last year, it added a Youth Ranch Rodeo. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, it strives to preserve and educate various communities about the rich western heritage, principles, and ranching practices that played a vital role in settling our state.

### Articles & Pages

Coffee Chat	p 2
Membership Dues	p 2
Donkey Events	p 3
Board Notes	p 3
Bulletin Board	p 5

**Please note our meeting location:** Dr. Field Goods Kitchen, 187 Paseo De Peralta, DeVargas Center shopping mall, SF. The closest entrance to the restaurant is on the south side of the mall. There is plenty of parking. **As always, plan to join others for dinner at 6 pm, prior to the meeting.** Bring a friend, as our program meetings are always open to the public. Dining is in

the main restaurant area, and our program meeting will be in the separate meeting room. Please plan to be in the meeting room slightly before 7 pm.

---

## Coffee Chat is Tues., March 10



Make a note now to mingle with others at our Coffee Chat on Tuesday, March 10, 9 – 11 am, Big R, 725 Saint Michaels Drive. 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.

*Reminder - February 10 is our next Coffee Chat. Same time, same place.*

---

## Time to Renew Your Membership – It's Easy, Here's How

Our memberships run with the calendar year, January to December, so it's time to renew your membership (if you haven't already). It's easy! Go online to: <https://nnmha.org> and click on Membership. You can pay online through our website, using either a PayPal account or a major credit card (with secure processing through PayPal).



You can also pay your dues in person at the February program meeting or through the US mail (for receipt by the end of this month). Whichever way you choose, more info is on our website, as noted above.

---

## NMHC Horseperson of 2025 Named

Congratulations to Jennifer Rios as co-recipient of the Northern New Mexico Horse Council Horseperson of the Year award. She has been president of The Horse Shelter since 2004. The NMHC recognizes outstanding adult residents for their enduring commitment to making meaningful differences for horses. She was nominated by Howard Gershon, president of NNMHA. The shelter now manages up to 100 rescue horses on a 128-acre ranch with more than 70 volunteers.

Patty Wilber is the other recipient for all her work with the NM Buckskin Association, Back Country Horsemen, and more.

---

# Save the Date – Extreme Cowboy Clinic

We hope to host a two-day clinic, tentatively scheduled Saturday-Sunday, May 9 - 10, HIPICO, to introduce this growing sport here. It is a fun event for riders of all ages and abilities. Details to come.

---

## Gotta Love a Donkey Event...or 2!

There are two donkey events that took place last year, and we're looking forward to them being scheduled soon for later this year! The Donkey "Musical Stalls" event was held last year over Labor Day weekend, as part of the annual Fiesta de Cerrillos, in Cerrillos.



Participants in the game last September were Sweet Patootie mini donkey with his owner, NNMHA member Kari Garen, volunteer Bruce Bigelow and Patootie's handler Stacia Raymond. The event is like the party game Musical Chairs, with tires substituting for chairs.

Donkeys must have at least one hoof in the tire when music stops. The winner this year was NNMHA member Kim Fay, with mini Bentley. Runner-up was Dorothea Lotter, founder and operator of Longears Safehouse in Estancia with mammoth donkey Jackson. This was Jackson's first and only experience in any activity involving all this excitement and activity. Good work, everyone!



The annual Turquoise Trail Pack Burro Race is a long-standing annual event, scheduled for Saturday, May 2, in Cerrillos.

Want to be a part of these events this year? Both events are open to the public. So, come and cheer the two- and four-legged competitors...or bring your critter and join in on the fun!

---

## Do You Know...

"Although high-strung and high-performance horses are considered the poster children for gastric ulcers, ulcers can also affect recreational horses and easy keepers," according to the December 2025 of *Horse Report*, published by the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis.

Clinical signs often do not accurately predict gastric ulcers. Gastrosocopy is the only way to definitely diagnose the presence, type and severity.

However, the article offered several suggestions that may help: feed hay before exercise to help protect the stomach' understand that horses that crib do not differ from those that don't regarding the prevalence of gastric ulcers; medications vary in effectiveness and ulcers can return after treatment ends, so continue to be watchful.



An important behavioral change to watch for is a sudden change in eating (loss of interest), although many horses show only mild signs or no clinical signs at all. If concerned, involve your veterinarian promptly. Understanding treatment and management options (sometimes longer-term) can aid in recovery.

---

# Board Notes

## Organization News

Ralph Larranaga provided a Treasurer's report and an end-of-year investment report. He has hired a CPA to help catch up on recent filing financial reports that are due now. He will also prepare and file our tax returns. Ralph presented a detailed proposed 2026 budget. Projections for this year include increases in several expenses categories. Board members discussed previously identified infrastructure needs that have outgrown our existing capacity. They include website management, overall operations and coordination and grant writing, and are critical to future growth.

Leanne DeVane and Amelia Adair added to the discussion by reviewing a detailed list of tasks they prepared that are essential to addressing these needs. These tasks are in addition to the current and ongoing commitments held by Board members, advisors and existing volunteers. After reviewing the list, the Board agreed to begin the search for an hourly freelancer on a contract basis to take on some of these tasks. The process will be incremental and from quarter to quarter. Doing so will allow for adjustments or changes, as needed, as well as ongoing evaluation. It was acknowledged that some tasks are more routine administration, while others may require more experience in certain areas.

It's that time! In Jay Diamonon's absence, it was discussed that membership dues (renewals and newcomers) are due this month. There are several ways you can pay your dues now. We try to make it easy! (See separate article.)

Lynn Allen reviewed a proposal submitted to the Board to help support the production of a documentary for a burro-focused television project. It will be centered on pack burro racing and packing as heritage-equine activities in NM. The production will be used to pursue various broadcast, streaming and educational distribution opportunities. The NM Pack Burro LLC made the request, and it was approved by the Board.

Rose Farley provided an update on this month's and several future monthly program meeting topics. If members or others have a topic to suggest, please contact Rose, rfarley@comcast.net, 214 726-6013.

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

## **Events, Rides & Clinics**

Amelia discussed the upcoming North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) competitive trail riding event later this year. NATRC hosts rides in six regions across North America.

Carol Marthens and Ed Srsic discussed an Extreme Cowboy Event to be held at HIPICO and sponsored by NNMHA in May. (See article for dates.)

---

# **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](mailto: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](http://www.helenkgarber.com) (Helen K Garber Studio), [mail@helenkgarber.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:lindsaylechner@gmail.com), [www.ponyclub.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jaramillojaqueline@gmail.com) or text only 505 231-4105.



## SADDLE FOR SALE

2022 lightly used McCall Mclite 15-5". At 27 lbs., easy to handle. Kevlar tree, matching martingale, basket weave tooling. Only selling because my new horse is just too small for this beauty. Worked great on my 16-2" TB. Medium tree fine for any than chunky Quarter horse. More photos and specs on request. Contact Dennis Brandon: [dbrandon290@icloud.com](mailto:dbrandon290@icloud.com) or mobile 614 264-9101.



## 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.



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Jesse. Contact: Mikel: 307-277-1235, [fc4126@gmail.com](mailto:fc4126@gmail.com).

## Clinics/Workshops/Events

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

*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](http://www.nmhorsecouncil.org) and click on "News" to see any newsletter. You can also see info on NMHC Facebook.*

---

# Board and Committees

### 2026 Board Members

President	Howard Gershon	<a href="mailto:howard@reach-newheights.com">howard@reach-newheights.com</a>	505 690-8433
Vice President	Lynn Allen	<a href="mailto:mlallendvm@gmail.com">mlallendvm@gmail.com</a>	505 595-4457
Treasurer	Ralph Larranaga	<a href="mailto:ralph@ralphalangroup.com">ralph@ralphalangroup.com</a>	505 470-2277
Secretary	Karla Lauritsen	<a href="mailto:karlauritsen@hotmail.com">karlauritsen@hotmail.com</a>	505 286-3732
At-Large	Amelia Adair	<a href="mailto:ameliaadair@msn.com">ameliaadair@msn.com</a>	702 563-1018
	Leanne DeVane	<a href="mailto:leannedevane@gmail.com">leannedevane@gmail.com</a>	505 469-1165
	Ed Srsic	<a href="mailto:esrsic@gmail.com">esrsic@gmail.com</a>	415 305-3238
Partnerships	Howard Gershon	<a href="mailto:howard@reach-newheights.com">howard@reach-newheights.com</a>	505 690-8433
Giving Program	Lynn Allen	<a href="mailto:mlallendvm@gmail.com">mlallendvm@gmail.com</a>	505 595-4457
Ridge Riders	Ed Srsic	<a href="mailto:esrsic@gmail.com">esrsic@gmail.com</a>	415 305-3238
Community Outreach	Leanne DeVane	<a href="mailto:leannedevane@gmail.com">leannedevane@gmail.com</a>	505 469-1165
	Karla Lauritsen	<a href="mailto:karlauritsen@hotmail.com">karlauritsen@hotmail.com</a>	505 286-3732

### Advisors to the Board

Program Co-Chairs	Rose Farley	<a href="mailto:rfarley@comcast.net">rfarley@comcast.net</a>	214 726-6013
	David Lyles	<a href="mailto:lylesphoto@gmail.com">lylesphoto@gmail.com</a>	214 587-4789
Clinics	Carol Marthens	<a href="mailto:luminaryllamas@msn.com">luminaryllamas@msn.com</a>	214 662-9616
Website/Social Media	Vacant		
Membership	Jay Diamonon	<a href="mailto:jay.diamonon@gmail.com">jay.diamonon@gmail.com</a>	713 303-1004
Newsletter	Sandra Smith	<a href="mailto:smithcom@goldengate.net">smithcom@goldengate.net</a>	505 983-0144
At-Large	Karen Denison	<a href="mailto:redmule@kdt.net">redmule@kdt.net</a>	505 469-2698

**Website** <http://www.NNMHA.org>  
**NNMHA Email** [contact@nnmha.org](mailto: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](mailto: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.*



*Happy Valentine's Day,  
to you and yours...*

© 2026 NNMHA