



RGMDA NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2012

WELCOME to the Rio Grand Mule & Donkey Association Newsletter!

Contact us at

RGMDA@eeebray.com for any information about the newsletters.

Please check our RGMDA website often, as we are adding pictures and information as they become available. We are lucky to have members who have taken some great pictures. It is one of the special items on the RGMDA website that sets us apart from other clubs.

All membership information, rules, and other club related information is stored there also.



RGMDA recently lost another one of it's long time friends Packy, owned by Vicki Badura
Packy is the donkey on the left of the team in the above picture

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT February 2012

Well, here it is February and, hopefully, the severe weather is over but for those of you who have lived here for some years we know better. Now is a good time to work on ground manners and lead line training as well as inspecting and repairing your equipment. Let's make February a membership drive month. Right now 60% of you have renewed your memberships for 2012 and that's a really good start for the year. For those of you who have not the 2012 Membership form is located in this newsletter and on the website. Also, consider bringing a friend or someone interested in longears to one of the chapter meetings. If you need any club brochures to hand out see your chapter chair. 2012 paid members were invited to participate in the 2012 Member Survey. For those who responded, we've received the first round of results and I think you'll find them interesting. These are posted [in this newsletter](#) and on the website and will be updated as the results change. The Scott Martin Memorial Ride at San Lorenzo is scheduled for Sunday, February 5th and hosted by Steve and Mary Randall. I look forward to seeing everyone and introducing you to my new little mule, Peaches. The ride was rescheduled due to weather and, hopefully, it will cooperate this time. Check the calendar for information on the ride. The driving clinic last year was such a success and the survey results show there is interest in another driving clinic. Allen and Mandy Severs, of Severs Mules, have once again offered to host a driving clinic this year. Watch the website for further announcements or you can let Allen know if you plan to attend. The greatest asset of our club is our members and their knowledge. If you have animals that don't lead, load, etc ask a member for help. If you're not sure who can help check with your chapter chair. If there is a particular interest maybe a clinic can be scheduled to meet the need.

Bill Crawford

"Stay on top of things"



top

RGMDA Board Meeting January 20, 2012,
6:30 pm Copper Canyon Restaurant Gibson Blvd,

Albuquerque, NM

Members Present: Bill Crawford, Sanny Silvius, Kim Fay, Jerry Badura, Stan & Katy Lundy, Steve & Mary Randall, Allen, Mandy & Cody Severs, Babel & Corina Gorham, Bob Larison

Minutes of last meeting accepted as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Balance \$2,966.77 Jerry noted that years projected expenses would be close to current balance, with approximately \$1,500 income from events in 2012. Kim Fay moved to accept, Sanny Silvius seconded, report accepted.

Committee Reports: Membership: 41 paid memberships to date. Corporate Member letter will go week of Jan 23. Discussion of offering Corporate Members a write up in the newsletter. Sanny also reported that name tags for members are about ½ done and will be given to Chapter Chairs to hand out to members.

Parade/Event Committee: Allen would like to have a representative from each Chapter to report on events/parades within the chapter that the club could participate in. Some ideas are: Magdalena, Pie Festival, Fort Bayard Days, Corrales Toy for Tots Parade, Valencia County Fair Parade, State Fair Parade.

Show Committee: Sanny passed out sheets for a point system for a "Participation Award". Points will be given for training, trail riding, helping other members etc. Points will be turned in monthly to a "Point Keeper", once 100 points are achieved a certificate will be awarded with the top five for the year given an award at end of year meeting. Chapter Chairs are asked to talk to the chapters about this and get feedback and report to next board meeting. Additionally, a show "High Point" system was discussed with three (or more shows) per year having the same classes and points from each show tallied for a high point award at year end. Chapter input is requested. Also, a point keeper is needed with excel experience.

Horse Council: Kim reported that to join the council it is \$30. The board voted to approve membership for 2012.

Business

San Lorenzo Canyon Ride Steve (as ride host) will re-schedule

Transition: Bank account is done; corporate paperwork and insurance also are taken care of. Kim requested she be informed of any RGMDA sanctioned events so she can inform the insurance.

Survey of Membership: surveys were distributed and there was a 52% return rate.

Correspondence: Steve has volunteered to continue to check PO Box since he and Mary come into Belen on a regular basis. He will forward relevant mail to Jerry or Bill.

Adjourned Next Meeting: March 16, 2012, Copper Canyon Restaurant, room open at 5:30 pm; meeting starts 6:30 pm; all members are invited and encouraged to attend.

Respectfully submitted: Kim Fay



top

RGMDA East Mountain Chapter Meeting Minutes JANUARY 3rd 2012

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Sanny Silvius.

Members present: Gayle & Lowell Clark, Deb & Alan Platt, Sanny Silvius, Bill Crawford, Liz Moore, Buddy Buzzard, Connie Hatley, Allen, Mandy, Cody, & Clayton Severs, Stan & Katy Lundy, Marvin Perkins, Rick Thompson, and Karen Lloyd

Old Business: Sanny introduced new RGMDA Board members from the East Mountain Chapter. President: Bill Crawford; Vice President: Alan Severs; and Jerry Badura: Treasurer. Sanny announced: Anna Coffey has been doing a great job organizing meeting times, places, and reminders via emails. Karen Lloyd volunteered to do meeting minutes for 2012. Agenda items must be presented to Sanny prior to monthly meetings.

Sanny presented our past Chapter President, Lowell Clark, a Certificate of Appreciation for all of his hard work.

Treasurer's Report: Current balance of \$3,378.77.

The end-of-year dinner and meeting at Elegante Hotel in Albuquerque was \$580.00 for 58 people. The annual auction brought in \$717.00. Next RGMDA Board meeting will be at 6:30 pm on January 20, 2012 at the Copper Canyon Restaurant on Gibson Blvd. All members are welcome to attend; however, only

board members can vote.

RGMDA Facebook page was never approved by the RGMDA Board; therefore, it has been changed to only allow initial postings by the Board members. Members may respond to posts, but not create them. These limitations are due to false information being posted, "for sale" postings, and non-member postings. Another Facebook page was created for members to discuss varied topics and it is entitled: Southwest Mule and Donkey Appreciation Page.

Bill Crawford requested Allen Severs to head up the Parade Committee. Allen is currently getting dates for parades and will post to RGMDA website.

Sanny discussed the Horse Show Committee (Phase 1). The Show Committee members are Sanny, Liz Moore, and Donna Lunn.

- o Classes and general structure of shows
- o Divisions to meet needs of members
- o Three shows (Mule and Donkey ONLY)
- o Our current Estancia horse show structure may not meet the needs of the new point show and may require a different show committee.
- o It will be up to each local committee whether to allow horses in the shows.

Christmas Party 2011. Connie Hatley thanked everyone that attended. Due to weather constraints, there is an idea that next year's party may be earlier (i.e. Christmas in July). Allie took photos and Martin Baker played Santa Claus.

Twinkle Light Parade. Allen Severs took 2nd place with his mules!

New Business:

San Lorenzo Canyon Ride was scheduled for Sunday; however, has been postponed due to another approaching Winter Storm. A map for San Lorenzo Canyon is on the RGMDA.org website. It is anticipated that there will be a 1:00 pm potluck.

Membership forms are available from Sanny. Everyone must fill out the Hold Harmless Agreement on the back of the form.

Sanny emailed a survey via SurveyMonkey to paid members only. This anonymous survey was to get an idea of what animals members owned and what members would like get out of their local chapter, and what events members might volunteer for. Survey Monkey is limited to 10 questions and distribution to no more than 100 individuals. The response rate as of January 3, 2012 was 38%.

Rick Thompson mentioned a NM Event Calendar online. Research online found these websites: NM Tourism Department <http://www.newmexico.org/calendar/events/index.php?year=2012&month=4> Draft Horse, Mule and Oxen Events (not solely New Mexico) <http://www.ruralheritage.com/calendar/index.htm>

Deb Platt gave names of events and dates for the following: National Western Stock Show (aka Denver Stock Show) § Trade Show 5-22 January 2012 § Draft Horse and Mule Classes and Performance 20-22 January 2012/p Rocky Mountain Horse Expo @ National Western Complex, Denver, CO 9-11 March § Equine related vendors § Horse trainers Colorado Classic Mule and Donkey Days @ Douglas County Fairgrounds, Castle Rock, CO 28-29 April 2012

<https://sites.google.com/site/coloradoclassicmuledonkeydays/home> Bishop Mule Days Celebration @ Bishop, CA, 22-27 May 2012 <http://www.muledays.org/>

Sanny mentioned East Mountain Chapter's meeting location may need to be changed due to space constraints if more members start attending the monthly meetings. Connie Hatley advised the Edgewood Community Center is free (\$50 key deposit); however, food is limited to "bring your own".

Gayle and Anna checked out Bufford's in Moriarty with mixed reviews.

Connie Hatley tried riding at the racetrack; however, it has been flooded for over a month.

Vicky and Jerry Badura went on a nice ride at Galisteo Basin Preserve, Santa Fe.

<http://www.galisteobasinpreserve.com/trails/index.php>

Liz Moore updated <http://www.eeebray.com> with new things about donkeys and mules.

Liz Moore and Karen Lloyd attended the webinar The Care and Feeding of Donkeys and Mules, by Dr. Amy McLean, PhD. They presented copies of slides, terminology, and points of interest. The full lecture can be viewed at: http://www.myhorseuniversity.com/resources/webcasts/dec_2011 - click on "WATCH" near photo.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by Karen Lloyd



RGMDA Central Mountain Chapter Meeting Minutes January 11, 2012

Kim Fay called meeting to order. The only announcement was the upcoming board meeting. Kim handed out printouts of the online presentation "The Care and Feeding of Mules & Donkeys" with a link to the recorded presentation. An informal discussion followed consisting of what we did over the break and how to increase attendance at meetings. February's speaker will be Dr. Paul Polechia talking about

history of donkeys in the southwest. It is Valentine's Day, so bring your honey have a great meal and listen to a good talk. We will also do a 50/50 drawing so you could win some Valentine's day cash!



top

RGMDA Northern Chapter January 18, 2012 at the home of Sue and Dick Kimberley Attending: Dick & Sue Kimberley, Bob & Cindy Larison, Ron & Pat Rundstrom, Karen & Eldon Reyer, Carolyn Miller, Kathy Olshesky, Joyce Davis, Karen Denison and Pat Kuhlhoff. A lovely potluck supper was followed by just a bit of general business. Bob Larison reported news from the latest state BOD meeting including newly elected officers and show committee. Eldon Reyer gave a summary of discussions from the "NM Equine Summit" which only had nine participants (not a roaring success) : Although the U.S. ban on horse slaughter for human use has been lifted, there aren't likely to be any approved slaughterhouses in NM in near-term due to lack of meat inspectors. There is likely to be an upswing for infectious diseases this coming year because of the current weather pattern ; don't overlook spring inoculations. The Continental Divide Trail Alliance has dissolved due to financial and administrative difficulties. Joyce Davis announced that on Wed., Jan 25th the Northern NM Horseman's Assn. is hosting a small "meet-and-greet" event for local equine groups so members across various organizations can meet and mingle. More info : Joyce, 424-9349. Also, Terry Berg at the SF Equestrian Center is hoping for a repeat of last year's well-received Horse Fair in which many RGMDA member participated. Tentative date is March 3-4. Our guest speaker was member Pat Kuhlhoff who in "real life" is a historian and Santa Fe tour guide. In advance of the upcoming northern Chapter Grand Canyon mule ride in June, Pat reviewed the life and work of Mary Colter, the planner/architect and interior designer for Fred Harvey, including all of his properties in the Grand Canyon. Colter was a proponent of the "American Modern" movement at the turn of the 20th century which celebrated the vibrancy of American spirit, culture and landscapes rather than European traditions. As a result of both her own interests and those of the Fred Harvey/SF&AT empire, Colter designed hotels, shops and other structures by drawing on local building styles, local labor and materials, and featured local artists including many native Americans. Some of Mary Colter's iconic Grand Canyon structures are El Tovar Hotel, Hopi House, Hermit's Rest and Indian Watchtower. Mule riders will be staying at Bright Angel Lodge which she designed in the mid-1930's. For more on Colter's work at the Grand Canyon including photos <http://www.ohranger.com/grand-canyon/news/2009/mary-colter-visionary-behind-grand-canyon%E2%80%99s-landmark-architecture> Meeting concluded.

Next meeting February 22

Submitted by Karen Denison



top

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

East Mountain Chapter: 1st Tuesday, February 7th, East Mountain Grill, 150 Highway 344, 6:30 PM, Sanny Silvius 505-363-7006

Central Chapter: 2nd Tuesday, February 14th, TJ's Mexican Restaurant, 319 Hwy 315 Suite 1, Los Lunas, 866-5123, just south of Main Street, on the west side. 6:30PM-Guest Speaker Paul Polechia, History of Donkeys in the Southwest, 50/50 Drawing- win some Valentine's Day money!

Northern Chapter: 3rd Tuesday, February 22nd, Dick or Sue, 505-820-2727.

Board Meeting: March 16th, Copper Canyon Restaurant, 6:30 PM



top

Spring Driving Clinic, presented by Severs Mules,

March 31st, 2012 Location: Town & Country 15600 Central Ave SE Albuquerque, New Mexico 87123

Email: severs@gmail.com or 505-288-8442

Registration: Starts at 8:00AM Clinic begins at 9:00AM until 4:00PM Fees: RGMDA members \$10, non members \$20 All proceeds go to RGMDA

Clinicians: Allen & Mandy Severs along with other RGMDA members & their talented mules & donkeys We will be covering beginning driving basics, safety, harnessing, ground driving, round pen, choosing vehicle, basic driving skills, obstacles, and show tips. Bring your animal for the afternoon session or you may drive one of ours.

*****For Safety Reasons***** Only Animals that have been driven before may be hitched to vehicles. You

may ground drive or do round pen work with beginning driving animals. No unruly or unmanageable animals allowed Snow in the Manzano Mountains



SCOTT MARTIN 6TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL RIDE

San Lorenzo Canyon **February 5 2012**

Location • San Lorenzo Canyon • Road will be marked with paper plates. • The “High Road” is recommended • In Saddle when you get there, ride at will Ride Information • Sandy terrain, no shoes are needed • Single track road / wash • Novice level ride, 7 miles round trip to end of canyon • OK to drive with wide tire rigs, narrow “bike” tires not recommended due to sandy conditions. • No water, restrooms or facilities of any kind. • Pot Luck lunch will be held back at the trailers after the ride at 1:00. Bring • Stock water for end of ride • Pot luck lunch item Contact • Steve Randall 861-1088 RGMDA Ride Rules & Trail Etiquette apply.



RGMDA 2011 Event Calendar

RGMDA Ride Rules & Trail Etiquette apply to all RGMDA rides/drives
[click on events for more info](#)

January	February	March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 8th Sixth annual Scott Martin Memorial ride, San Lorenzo Canyon. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 5th -Sixth annual Scott Martin Memorial ride, San Lorenzo Canyon.- New Date! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 31st -Driving Training Clinic
April	May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 28th-Colorado Classic Mule & Donkey Dayscoloradoclassicmuledonkeydays/home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 26th- Badura Fun Day 	
July	August	September
October	November	December

* Events in **ORANGE** are not RGMDA events. Revised 1/31/2012



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Vicki Badura & Festus with Packy following behind