

Northern Chapter Meeting May 16, 2018

hosted at the home of Bob and Cindy Larison

Paul and Kathy Olshefsky, Karen Denison, Dick and Sue Kimberley, Karen and Eldon Reyer, Ron and Pat Rundstrom and guest, Bob and Cindy Larison, Sandee Smith, Piar Marks, and Pat Kuhlhoff.

Potluck spaghetti supper preceded our meeting.

Bob Larison gave a report on their recent riding trip to Quitaque, Texas (pronounced kitty-kay) near Amarillo. Their ranch stay was great and they feel they met everyone in town, a friendly, interesting bunch, by the end of their few days. The area is historically significant for their trade with New Mexico's comancheros.

Bob's second topic was head injury as a result of riding accidents. He read from an article stating the statistics of traumatic brain injury broken down by hours of activity and riding was near the top of the list. Yet only about 20% of riders routinely wear helmets. Bob's personal interest in this area comes as a result of an accident last summer at the livery where Bob works which has left a fellow wrangler with permanent head injury. Bob and Kathy Olshefsky are both ordering the new Resistol RideSafe helmets which have brims and crowns like a western hat. Resistol is offering a felt version and now a straw version. Samples were passed around and discussed.

Several people reported seeing snakes out now, including rattlesnakes. Be aware around your barns and out on trail.

A guest from Spain accompanied Rundstroms to our meeting; by profession, she is a film-maker but is interested in whether "horse therapy" is practiced in the area. A list of some of the area programs was given, and an invitation to visit one extended.

Dick Kimberley has completed one of the Meet-a-Mule obstacles he will contribute. M-a-M will be August 4.

Bob Larison and Kathy Olshefsky team-taught a couple of classes recently at this year's Search and Rescue state conference: a "Horse 101" class aimed at non-equestrian SAR personnel (many of whom have no experience with horses), and a "Riding Lightly" class at raising awareness of the carrying capacity of horses versus the amount of mandatory SAR gear.

Leanne DeVane has offered to host the July meeting if folks would be willing to go out to Cañada de los Alamos. A mostly-positive response, with no firm commitments at this point.

Next state board meeting is May 18. Karen D. will "attend" by video chat. She is also heading to Bishop Mule Days for the first time this year, then will be repeating last year's summer relocation to Colorado, leaving early June. Others will have to help with reporting meeting minutes.

Next meeting June 20, hosted by Carolyn Miller and Terry Borst.