



# Natural Horsemanship Association Of Northern Nevada

## 2011 Board Members:

**President:**

Samantha DiMuzio, 775-622-5372

[Sandb98@msn.com](mailto:Sandb98@msn.com)

**Vice President:**

Debbie Tayler, 775-846-8918

[Kirk.debbie.tayler@gmail.com](mailto:Kirk.debbie.tayler@gmail.com)

**Past President:**

Dar Meredith, 775-972-1127

[darmedith@clearwire.net](mailto:darmedith@clearwire.net)

**Activities Coordinator & Librarian:**

Samantha DiMuzio &

Cynthia Brown, 775-842-9698

[cynthiabrown14@hotmail.com](mailto:cynthiabrown14@hotmail.com)

**Assistant Secretary:**

Louise Fernandes, 775-425-0778

[l8luez@clearwire.net](mailto:l8luez@clearwire.net)

**Membership Director:**

Nancy Horvath, 775-972-7702

[thirstycreekranch@gmail.com](mailto:thirstycreekranch@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Rebekka Rhodes, 775-972-9025

[centaurgenic@mindspring.com](mailto:centaurgenic@mindspring.com)

**Secretary:**

Marianne Merriam (818) 590-8460

[MarianneMerriam@gmail.com](mailto:MarianneMerriam@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:**

Debbie Young, 775-972-6886

[Ltl\\_tree@nvcbell.net](mailto:Ltl_tree@nvcbell.net)

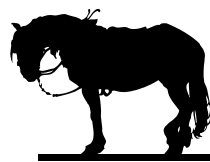
**Web Master:**

Cynthia Brown and Samantha DiMuzio

Mail membership dues to NHANN c/o  
Nancy Horvath, 10220 Pathfinder Way,  
Reno, NV 89508

Annual dues:

\$25.00 individual; \$35.00 family



## November/December 2011 Meeting Highlights:

The general meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. with a welcome from the Club's President, Samantha DiMuzio. Samantha requested that those in attendance introduce themselves, and provide information regarding the number of horses that they have and their names.

- Debbie Young made a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes as written. Debbie Tayler seconded the motion which passed without opposition.

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The current balance as reported by Debbie Young is \$1,356.17, reflecting income of \$5.00 from a decal purchase and expenses of \$12.95 for the website fee.

### OLD BUSINESS:

- Nancy Horvath was not present to provide a membership report. Samantha said that there are forty nine members to date.
- Cynthia explained the library rules and reminded members to look online prior to each meeting to identify materials that they would like to check out. The library list now includes pictures of the resource including a description of the contents.
- Debbie Taylor discussed the items that the club has for sale.
- Samantha reminded those present to RSVP for the club's Christmas party if they planned to attend.
- Samantha reminded the members that the club is still actively seeking a President for the 2012 year.

Marianne reminded members that she is always in need for articles to post for the "Member's Corner" in the newsletter each month.

# *~Farewell from our 2011 President~*

By Sam DiMuzio



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*H* Everyone!

As I ride off into the sunset, I would like to thank you all for a memorable year as president. Horse-camping was by far the highlight of the year. (However, the Luggable Loo at the Holiday party was a close 2<sup>nd</sup>!) It was wonderful getting to you know many of you. I would like to also thank the 2011 Board Members for their hard work and continued dedication to helping make NHANN the best it can be.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I pass the lead rope on to Marianne Merriam, who has just volunteered to be next year's president. She will make a fantastic herd leader for 2012 ☺.

Happy Trails! Sam

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End of the Year Trail Ride!  
When: 12/31/11  
Where: Lemmon Valley Arena  
Head-out Time: 10:30am

## November Presentation

November 2011's meeting topic was presented by Dr. Meeghan Gray, PhD. from the University of Nevada, Reno. Her topic was on "Fertility Control in Feral Horses: Efficacy and side effects". Dr. Gray gave credit to David Thain, Elissa Cameron and Lowell Miller, in her research of the above topic.

Dr. Gray gave a brief background of the free horses found in the USA today. The argument of feral verses wild was addressed. Dr. Gray said that all of the free roaming horses found today have been proven genetically to be from domesticated stock.

The free ranging horses of today have been federally protected since 1971, when "Wild Horse Annie" was able to elicit support to protect these animals. This legislation mandates that the BLM will manage these horses.

Dr. Gray explained the ecology of the horses, explaining that they live in a stable "harem band", which is very different than any other species. These bands consist of one stallion, unrelated adult females and their offspring. Both sexes in the band are from dispersed natal bands, or are not from a family group (no genetic relationship is found within the band).

Today's controversy sited by Dr. Gray is the high rates of population growth that is noted to be occurring in these horses. They are prolific because:

1. Mares cycle eleven months out of the year.
2. Reproduction is consistent within the herd.
3. There is a lack of predators.
4. Feral horses are provided supplemental feed by humans.
5. The feral horses are resilient.

Dr. Gray sited Nevada as having a substantial amount of the feral horse population when compared with other states. There are 33,000 feral horses in the USA, and one half of these are found in Nevada; 41,000 reside in BLM holding pens (and will live out the rest of their lives there), and cost the government 42 million dollars per year, which is 57% of their budget.

So, why should horse populations be managed or controlled? Over population results in damage to the range; damage to the natural water resources; they compete with livestock and other ungulates (wildlife); they can cause vehicle collisions.

The current methods employed by the BLM to manage the herds are as follows:

1. Round ups and adoptions. The controversy surrounding these practices stems from questions about how humane and effective these are.
2. Contraception targeting the mares. The BLM is recently beginning to incorporate this into their practice of herd management. This requires yearly gathering to provide the treatment.

Dr. Gray cites two major types of contraceptives that can be utilized. These are Porcine Zona Pellucida or PZP, which blocks the sperm receptor sites preventing fertilization, and Gonacon-B, which prevents the monthly cycle. The reason Mares would be targeted in the population control as opposed to the stallions is

## WINTER RIDING TIPS *aka HOW TO TRY TO STAY WARM (& safe!) WHILE RIDING IN COLD WEATHER* By Marianne Merriam



How many of you shudder with the very thought of putting every stitch of clothing that you own on, going outside, getting your trailer hitched up, your horse loaded, driving to some God-forsaken location, braving the cold temperature, wind chill factor and fewer hours of thin daylight, just to get a ride in? Is it any wonder that many people pull their horse's shoes off and give their horses and themselves a few months "vacation" from riding every winter?

Well, if you're a fox hunter, or maybe just a die-hard winter-weather-loving, horse riding maniac, you'll do just that. Except the "shuddering" part... hopefully.

As with any other winter sport, it starts with the proper attire – for you and your horse. First we'll start with the human component of how to make winter horseback riding comfortable.

Let's start with the feet and go up from there. Boots – either wear insulated, water-proof tall boots, or buy boots and half chaps large enough to fit very thick wool blend socks, or a couple of pairs of socks.  
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## January NHANN Meeting



708-8212378 (08) © www.wisualphotos.com

*Come join us for our first NAHNN meeting in 2012!*

*Our first 2012 meeting will be on January 12<sup>th</sup>.*

*Board Meeting starts at 5:15 – all members are welcome!*

*General Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. at Round Table Pizza, 4007 So. Virginia Street, Reno.*

## Pictures from the December NHANN Holiday party!



*Debbie Young with her new barn sign!*



*Festive Live  
Christmas Tree*



*Carol Schley and the fought-over  
Luggable Loo party gift!*

*Photos courtesy of Samantha DiMuzio*

## NHANN LOGO-WEAR LONG SLEEVED T-SHIRTS ARE WARM!!

**ONLY \$15 EACH, QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED!**

S-10/ M-13/ L-12/ XL-10/ XXL-5

(Sam is wearing a Small)



Place your orders in time to wear on your next trail ride!

Orders can be placed via email and shirts can be picked up at the next Meeting.

E-mail Sam DiMuzio to reserve yours now! [Sandb98@msn.com](mailto:Sandb98@msn.com)

NHANN Decals for your car, truck & trailer are now available – buy several while supplies last!

## NHANN 2012

### Tentative Meeting & Activity Schedule

| Month | Scheduled Speaker      | Topic                                    | Activity |
|-------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------|
| Jan   | Rebekka Rhodes         | Emergency Evacuation<br>Wild Fire Safety | #        |
| Feb   | #                      | #                                        | #        |
| Mar   | #                      | #                                        | #        |
| Apr   | #                      | #                                        | #        |
| May   | #                      | #                                        | #        |
| Jun   | #                      | #                                        | #        |
| Jul   | #                      | #                                        | #        |
| Aug   | #                      | #                                        | #        |
| Sep   | #                      | #                                        | #        |
| Oct   | #                      | #                                        | #        |
| Nov   | #                      | #                                        | #        |
| Dec   | Club<br>Holiday Party* | (No meeting at<br>Round Table)           | Party *# |

\*Confirmed +Tentative-waiting on confirmation #Details to come

### NHANN FOR SALE ITEMS:

Long Sleeved T-shirts: \$15

Short Sleeved T-shirts: \$12

Trail Kits (bandana, hoof pick, lip balm, strip of leather): \$10

Equine First Aid Kit: \$25

Really great hoof pick!: \$15

9x12 Decals: \$7.50 each; 5x7 Decals: \$5 each



### CALLING ALL MEMBERS!



Members are *enthusiastically encouraged* to submit "Member's Corner" articles for publication to the NHANN Secretary via e-mail ([MarianneMerriam@gmail.com](mailto:MarianneMerriam@gmail.com)) regarding real-life learning experiences, interesting or unusual stories concerning you and/or your horses.

## WINTER RIDING TIPS

*Cont'd from Page 3*



There are also "Feet Warmers" and "Toe Warmers" that stick to the bottom of your socks (not your feet). Feet warmers will give you hours of additional warmth without the bulk of another pair of socks. If there's not enough room in your boots for your toes to wiggle, you will have poor circulation and thus very cold feet!

For the next layer up, let's start with long underwear! For English riders there are long underwear bottoms that end just below the knee with an elastic band, so your tall boots will still fit without the bulk that comes from full-legged long underwear.

There are also fleece lined tights and fleece lined breeches, flannel lined jeans, and insulated cover-alls. Just realize that the more layers you have on, the more difficult any pit stop will be, thus the need to plan in advance for the time it takes to get these layers off in times of need!

From the waist up, certainly long underwear is again in order, camisoles, insulated shirts, turtle necks and vests. For coats, something that covers your rear end is preferable – and if it's raining or snowing, a long "duster" with a split back and straps that keep the coat "tails" covering your legs while you ride can mean the difference between soaking wet hypothermia and an enjoyable ride.

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# UP-COMING EVENTS

- Saturday after the NHANN Monthly Meeting  
**NHANN Monthly Activity**  
Stay tuned for *trail rides, clinics and other fun things* to participate in with your horses! Activities announced monthly.
- January 12, 2012 (Always the second Thursday of the month)  
**January NHANN Meeting!**  
Time: 5:15 Board Meeting; 6:00 PM General Meeting.
- January 30<sup>th</sup> - February 4<sup>th</sup>  
**28<sup>th</sup> National Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Elko, NV**  
[www.westernfolklife.org](http://www.westernfolklife.org) 888-880-5885; 775-738-7508

Check out the Natural Horsemanship of Northern Nevada's website for future club related events and for the list of Library materials at:  
[www.naturalhorsenevada.com](http://www.naturalhorsenevada.com)

## November Presentation Cont'd

*Continued from Page 3*

because it is less destructive to the social system of these animals, and it is less invasive for the females to undergo the treatment. Dr. Gray said that she and others had concerns for this method of control interfering with the natural or innate ability of the herds' ability to maintain their characteristics by not interbreeding. Also, of concern is the length of infertility that would be imposed and the direct correlation to the herd's genetic stability. Another concern that required study is the potential side effects which might occur.

The study population was from the Virginia Range. Seventy seven mares were treated systemically (June 2005). There was a control group of untreated mares. The mares treated were branded. Treated mares were monitored weekly for six seasons. Fecal samples were collected to monitor for progesterone, and mares were assessed visually for signs of pregnancy.

All mares after the five year study were able to foal again. The results with the two drugs used (mentioned previously) were not as good as were desired, or as with other formulations.

However, there would be a tradeoff between the efficacy and the long term effects experienced. No behavioral changes were noted to occur within the mares that were in the study, and the harem bands remained stable.

Dr. Gray expressed that in the future, this method of control will most likely be the one utilized. This will allow for herd management and preserve the free roaming herds found on the ranges today.

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## WINTER RIDING TIPS

*Cont'd from Page 5*



For your face and head there are balaclavas that cover your ears and face, leaving your eyes exposed, or "thinsulated" ear muff coverings that will also fit under your helmet. Don't forget sunglasses to protect your eyes from bright, reflected light.

Proper gloves are paramount to winter riding comfort. There are fleece lined, insulated "mittens" that have a separate pinkie finger to hold the reins between. There are also "Hand Warmers" that are supposed to go between a thin liner glove and an outer glove. The instructions usually say not to put it next to your skin, but just be aware that they can burn sensitive skin, and if you don't have a pair of liners, check your hands often enough to know you're not getting burned.

Now to help your horse stay warm: if he is clipped and the temperatures are low, he may need to wear a blanket or at least a cooler while trailering to the riding destination, particularly if it is early morning before the air temperature has warmed much.

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# WINTER RIDING TIPS

*Cont'd from Page 6*



Photo: Stephan Wideman

Wind chill factors can lower the perceived temperature by many degrees. If your horse is not clipped, nor used to being blanketed, he will probably have sufficient hair to keep warm in the trailer, particularly if there is more than one horse in the trailer for increased body heat, and/or if he has hay to eat to keep his “engine running”.

There are “half blankets” that you can put on the horse, under the saddle to keep it in place, that extend rearwards to cover the horse’s hind end while riding. Riding bareback can also help keep both you and your horse warmer through shared body heat.

When you are done with your winter ride, if your horse is sweaty, put a fleece or wool cooler on him. This will wick the moisture away from his hair to the top side of the cooler and allow him to dry more quickly without getting chilled. If it’s windy and your horse has to stand around and wait for you to finish your after-ride social activity, put him in the trailer with a bag of hay to give him some protection from the wind.

Traction is a huge concern when riding your horse in the winter. There are many articles on how much traction is acceptable for a horse and in what conditions. There are various “studs” that can be permanently affixed to horse shoes, or removable types that screw in and out of the shoe. A barefoot horse will have better natural traction than a horse shod with plain steel shoes. A farrier can also add borium tips to horse’s shoes as well. For more information on Winter Hoof Care Tips, see Issue 411, Dec. 2011 Equus Magazine.

Don’t let low temperatures deter you from enjoying your horse on beautiful winter rides. With some common sense, proper gear for you and your horse, you can both safely enjoy another riding season!

## CLASSIFIED ADS

### **HORSE FRIENDLY PRODUCTS:**

Timberline Saddle Company Custom Saddles: Western, Dressage, English, Trail & Endurance models. Custom saddle pads, girths and cinches, bridles & accessories available. Tacky-Tack™ Saddle Pads – extreme comfort and non-slip security; washable & breathable. Skidmore’s Leather Care products.

Contact: Mark Rhodes  
775-972-9025

[centaurgenic@mindspring.com](mailto:centaurgenic@mindspring.com).

### **NATURAL HOOF CARE**

**by Debbie Tayler:**

Correct trimming for balance & performance with an emphasis on treating the whole horse. (775) 846-8918

[kirk.debbie.tayler@gmail.com](mailto:kirk.debbie.tayler@gmail.com)

Call to schedule an appointment.

### **SAFE START HORSEMANSHIP:**

Beginning horsemanship: riding instruction, with emphasis on safety, communication & learning all aspects of horse care; ages 5 thru adult. Call or email for more info. South Reno.

Contact: Jann Hehn 775-852-7261

[safestarthorse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:safestarthorse@sbcglobal.net)

### **SADDLE PAD SHIMS FOR SALE:**

Adjustable as your horse’s body changes/grows, 3 left and 3 right shims per pkg. English or Western Saddles - Adjust saddle fit for your horse, helps build muscles in withers area, and helps relieve atrophied muscles.

Contact Marianne Merriam  
818-590-8460

[MerriamWear@gmail.com](mailto:MerriamWear@gmail.com)

### **HORSES 4 LEASE OR LESSONS:**

MFT gelding. Cruise is an incredibly smooth trail horse, rides English or western; Lessons are \$30, leasing is \$150 per month.

Contact Donna Artz at  
775-232-2427.

[swsranch@charter.net](http://swsranch@charter.net)

### **DYNAMITE PRODUCTS**

Dynamite produces high quality vitamin & mineral supplements for horses, dogs, cats, alpacas, and birds, as well as fly spray & wound care.

Contact Debbie Tayler at  
[www.dynamitespecialty.com/debbietayler](http://www.dynamitespecialty.com/debbietayler)