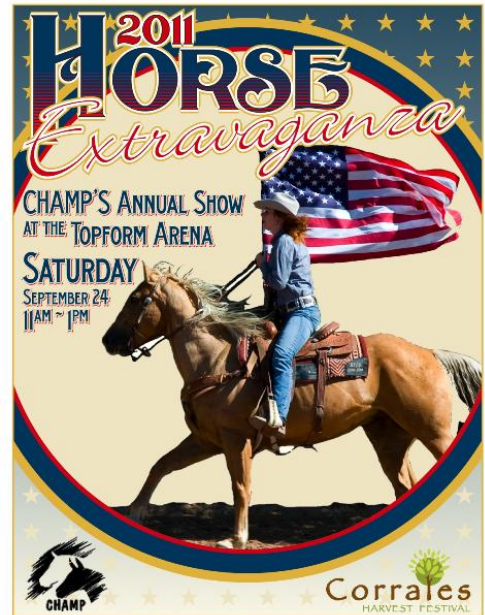




September 2011

Just a short note to remind everyone of this Saturday's (Sept. 24) Harvest Festival CHAMP Horse Extravaganza at the TopForm Arena starting at 11:00. We will again be showcasing numerous breeds followed by demonstrations of several riding disciplines. It is one of the rare opportunities for such diverse equestrians to participate in the same event and marvel at the beauty and grace of the horses and riders! This year's honorees are Carole Baker and Melanie Scholer. Carole donated the land on which the TopForm Arena was built and has been a long-time equestrian who still rides almost daily in the Village. Melanie is no stranger to CHAMP since she has been with us since the inception. In addition to all of Melanie's work at Dan's Boots & Saddles and their support of the Ditch Pony Promenade and Lefty Converse Memorial Show, Melanie put her time where her heart was and served as a voice for the equestrian community on our Village Council. It was through Melanie's efforts that the Corrales Equestrian Advisory Commission was created to advise the Council and administration on matters affecting the horse community. Come help us thank these two outstanding women for all they have done for our equestrian community!! While you are there, you also can thank Nancy Nelson for organizing the extravaganza again this year.



Three of the New Mexico horses competing to be America's Favorite Trail Horse will perform at the Extravaganza. They are Zeema, a Lippizzaner owned and ridden by Teresa Falzone; Macho, a Mustang owned and ridden by Shelly Bachicha; and Elektra, a Quarter Horse owned and ridden by CHAMP associate board member Kathryn Sikorski. The national trail horse competition is underway with weekly videotaped performances on HRTV, a satellite TV channel devoted to equine events. You vote online at www.ACTHA.tv during the 48 hours following each Tuesday episode. Zeema was featured September 20; Elektra will appear October 4 and Macho November 22. There are three ways to watch Tuesdays at 6 and 9 p.m. You watch DISH channel 404 or go online at www.HRTV.com, you can get free temporary subscription with the code AFTH2. A lower quality broadcast also is online at www.actha.tv

Our next CHAMP-sponsored event will take place on Saturday, October 15, when Mike and Kathryn Sikorski will present another Trails Clinic. This reprise of a clinic they put on last year addresses training your horse to handle obstacles such as those faced in ACTHA competitions. It appears that the clinic is presently full, but there is a waiting list starting and there is room for those who wish to audit this entertaining and very useful clinic! Check our CHAMP website for more details and entry forms.

We had hoped to sponsor this year's Barn Tour, but we could not get a commitment from anyone to head up the event. We will do it next year on Sunday, October 28, 2012, which should give us plenty of time to convince some of our members to head up the event. It will showcase six interesting and varied barns in Corrales. Last year 50 people paid \$10 each to tour these barns so it can be a great fund-raiser as well as a way to introduce non-horse owners to a slice of our lifestyle!

Our last event of this calendar year will take place on Sunday, November 20, with the annual Christmas de Caballos Parade. This is a toy-raising event to support the U.S. Marine Corp's Toys for Tots Program and will start at 1 pm at Wagner's Corn Maze and run to the TopForm Arena. Rides in a carriage with Santa will be available at the Arena. Come join us on horseback or bring the family and enjoy the Parade! We believe this event to be the largest equine-only parade in New Mexico and last year we had over 100 horses. Come join us for a horse-studded parade!!

We are going to hold our Candidates Forum in February preceding our Village elections. That meeting will also serve as our annual election meeting. We have nine (9) members of our Board and two (2) alternates, without whom we might not have had a quorum a couple of times! If anyone is interested in serving please let me know. I can be reached at stevehenryesq@aol.com or by phone at 250-4864.

Steve Komadina is our President-elect and I have agreed to continue as a Board member to act as liaison with the Village, MRGCD, the State Highway Department, and our insurers, but after four (4) years it is time to pass the proverbial reins! It has been a privilege to be associated with CHAMP and I hope we have made progress on our stated goals- the promotion, preservation and protection of the ownership and use of horses and mules in Corrales! Without constant vigilance, we can lose those rights as the urban area creeps in, so help us demonstrate why our oasis along the Rio has earned the right to proclaim itself the "Horse Capital of New Mexico"!

Our next CHAMP board meeting will be on Wednesday, October 5, at 7 pm at the Clubhouse at Pueblo Los Cerros. Our monthly meetings are open to all, so come join us!

Steve Henry
President