

# THE NOGAL JOURNALS

*Volume Eleven*

A photograph of three horses grazing in a green field. The horses are white, brown, and dark brown. They are in a field with a wooden fence. In the background, there are green hills under a blue sky with some clouds.

**BELLE, THUNDER, SPANKY, LULU  
AND  
MATTHEW MIDGETT**

## Volume 11 - Part 3 of 3

Please use the BOOKMARKS TOOL:



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window).

## 2016-10-17 – Magnificent -7- Ghost Ranch

Our final ride at Ghost Ranch took us across the open desert near Lake Abiquiu.

*(Please excuse the dried water spots on the lens from our river crossings. Didn't notice them until now.)*



*We joined some Northern New Mexico Horsemen's Association members for this ride (that's Georgia O'Keeffe's "backyard" in the distance).*





*Oh, Spanky.*





*Belle spots something in the distance.*



## 2016-10-17 – Magnificent -7- Ghost Ranch

*A trio of burros! Thunder went to check them out. It was apparent that he wanted them to know that he was protecting "his" herd (our riders). Wonderful to see them free like this.*



*Then Lulu made a little visit. "Hi! I'm Lulu. Who are you?"*



# 2016-10-17 – Magnificent -7- Ghost Ranch

*"Hey! What ARE these things?" (They seem to be thinking the same thing about her).*



*Beautiful country.*



## 2016-10-17 – Magnificent -7- Ghost Ranch

*As usual, Thunder makes new friends.*



*If you have seen the new version of "The Magnificent Seven", much of it was filmed at Ghost Ranch, and you may recognize this spot - the newly joined "7" gunmen ride EXACTLY here in the film . . .*



# 2016-10-17 – Magnificent -7- Ghost Ranch

... and O'Keffe's favorite Pedernal Mountain, from this perspective, is prominent in the movie as well.



*Last views of Ghost Ranch.*





Faded logo on an old ranch truck.



## 2016-10-17 – Magnificent -7- Ghost Ranch

*A bonus shot - (thank you, Lynne!) - our family crossing the Chama.*



It was a wonderful experience - our thanks to everyone at Ghost Ranch (and Christ in the Desert Monastery) for making it so special.

Glad we could share it with you!

MM

## 2016-10-17 – *Monastery Ride – Part One*

The remote Christ in the Desert Benedictine Monastery is located about 20 miles from Ghost Ranch, along the Chama River. It is a quiet and reflective place, where the monks live out their vows of prayer and good works. Thanks to Jeff's friendship with the Abbot, we had the privilege of riding there, led by Father John on horseback.

*Ancient cottonwood trees were making their transition from summer into fall.*



*The monastery is nestled in a beautiful valley. Access is by a 13-mile-long dirt road, which meanders along the river's course.*



## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part One

*In the summer season, when the flow is high, this is a popular route for rafters and kayakers.*







*The adobe chapel.*



*With majestic views of nature from inside.*



*Generosity . . .*



## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part One

We were given access to the private grounds.



No, Lulu, not in there.



## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part One

*Our ride began silently, along the river.*



*We would cross the river many times. Here, cattle loll on the shallow sand bars.*



## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part One

*Lulu contemplates the best way across. The flow is relatively calm here. We would encounter rapids later . . .*



## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part One

*It was a warm day, so her cooling "bath" was welcome.*





*Thunder enjoys a little frolic in a meadow.*



**2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part One**



# 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part One

*The trail ahead . . .*



MM

## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part Two

Led by Father John, we continued on our ride, humbled by the great beauty surrounding us.



*We climb away from the river, through sand and sage.*



## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part Two

*Jeff offers Lulu a cool drink from his cupped palm.*



*Later, the horses have their own refreshment.*



## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part Two

*The water is swifter at this crossing.*



*Lulu (the little spot in the rapids to the left of Spanky) struggles along in the current. I was very proud of her determination.*



## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part Two



*More crossings . . .*



## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part Two

*Lulu stays close to Spanky.*



*"Hey! You with the long legs. Wait up!"*



**2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part Two**



## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part Two



## 2016-10-17 – Monastery Ride – Part Two

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It was indeed a privilege to ride in this very special place. Happy to share it with you.  
MM

## 2016-10-21 – Last Leaves

Our nights are cooler. No freeze, yet - not even frost . . . but the leaves know their time has come.

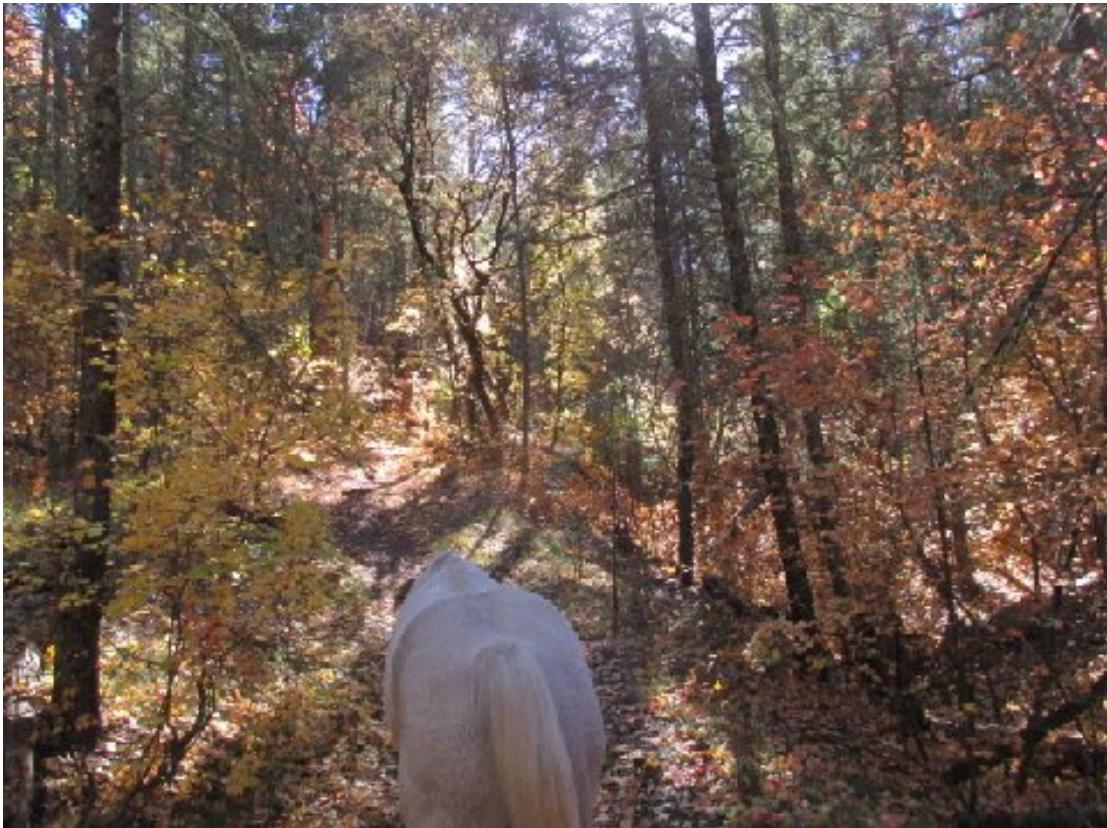
*Lulu gets a kick out of running through the fallen leaves.*



*Oh, yeah!*



# 2016-10-21 – *Last Leaves*



## 2016-10-21 – Last Leaves

*These maples are just turning.*





## 2016-10-21 – Last Leaves

*Belle pauses for a grassy snack.*



*The boys do, too.*



## 2016-10-21 – Last Leaves

*The sun makes them luminous overhead, as we ride silently along.*



*Sometimes they look as though they are lit from within.*



## 2016-10-21 – Last Leaves



*No "photoshopping" or enhancement - this is how they look in the sun.*



## 2016-10-21 – *Last Leaves*

*Friends, headed home.*



Thanks for joining us!

MM

## 2016-10-23 – Party Ponies

Our good friends Beth and Gary host a wonderful fall party each year at their place near the historic village of Lincoln. The horses (and Lulu) were invited, and had a great time.

*Beth and Gary provide tasty party treats (including a huge vat of homemade New Mexican Green chili), but the horses couldn't have been happier with their choice - nice green grass. That's the three of them, hanging out up by the house.*



*They made themselves right at home.*



## 2016-10-23 – Party Ponies

*With acres of lawn to roam, they preferred to stay where the action was.*



## 2016-10-23 – Party Ponies

*They enjoyed chatting amiably with the other guests.*



*Spanky always makes special friends.*





*A private chat. "And so, Mr. Spanky, what do you think I should do?"*



## 2016-10-23 – Party Ponies

*One highlight of the party is the annual pumpkin carving contest.*



*Later, back at home, we had a party of our own. Lots of young deer enjoying their favorite apple treats.*



2016-10-23 – Party Ponies







MM

## 2016-10-27 – Such A Day

Our remarkable autumn weather continues, allowing us to ride the high country in unusual comfort this time of year.

*Mommie Cat is taking no chances. "You go and have a good time. I'll keep an eye on things at home (yawn)".*



*Autumn is burnishing the land with gold.*



## 2016-10-27 – Such A Day



*We had the entire horse campground to ourselves on this beautiful day. Lulu leads the way to the trail head.*



*"Let's go this way!"*



*("Ha, ha, I'm in front!")*





*Even Belle seems to admire the leaves (horses do see in color).*



*The little brooks still run with cold, clear water. Thunder has a sip.*



# 2016-10-27 – Such A Day

*Spanky picks his way carefully over a rocky patch as we climb to the top.*



*Thunder flies across the grassy crest.*



## 2016-10-27 – Such A Day

*Spanky catches up, his "hunter ribbon" flying.*



*We had a little picnic at the top. And I mean "we"; everyone shared (the horses got bread crusts and fruit - Lulu got meat and cheese. I got very little).*



# 2016-10-27 – Such A Day

*After lunch, Spanky rolled . . .*



*. . . and Lulu enjoyed the view.*



## 2016-10-27 – Such A Day

*Trustworthy horses graze in the distance (you must look carefully to see them near the center of the photo).*

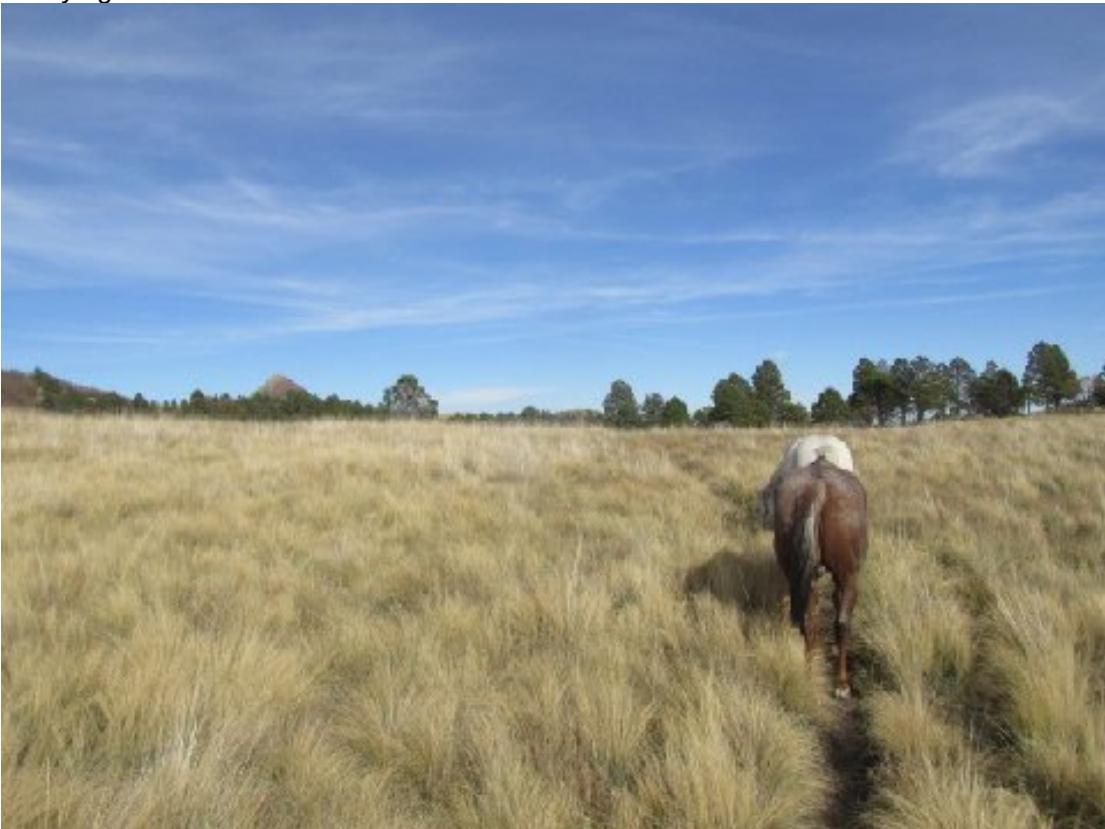


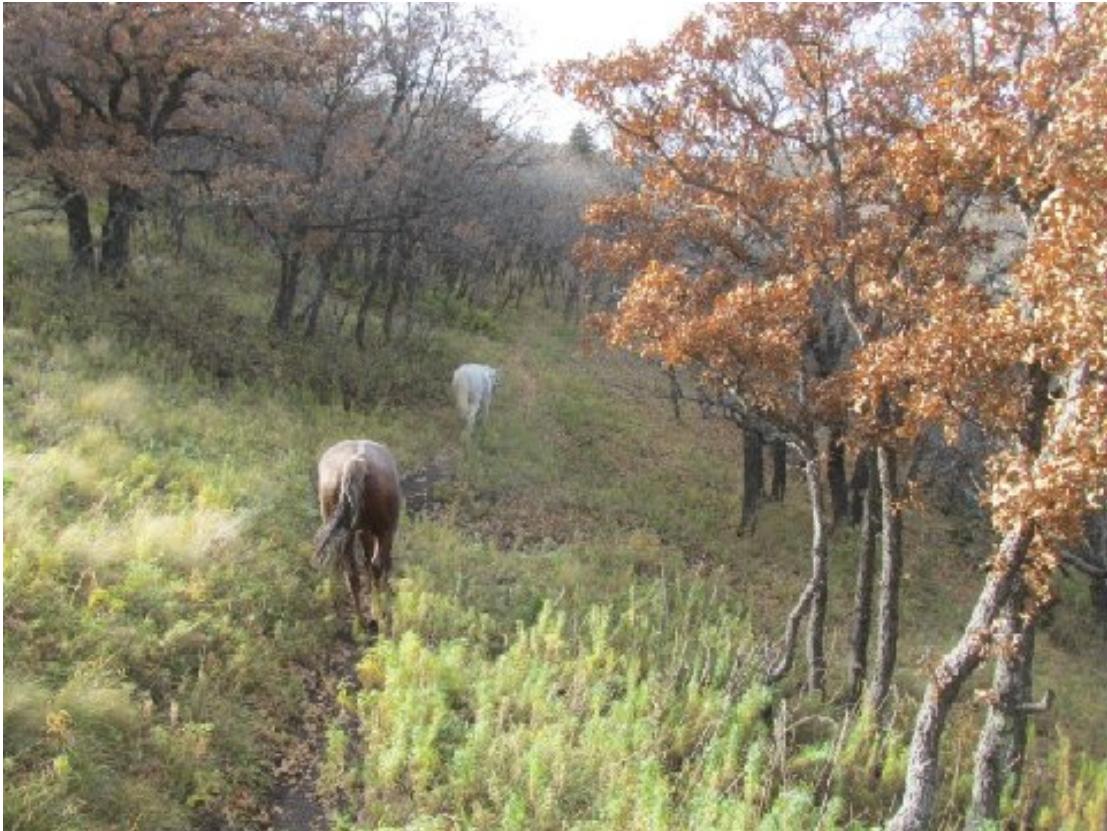
# 2016-10-27 – Such A Day

*Such a day . . .*



*On our way again.*





*Belle spots an elk too far away for the camera.*



## 2016-10-27 – Such A Day

*Snacking their way along at sunset.*



*Leaves continue to glow in the waning light.*





*Homeward bound at dusk.*



*"That time of year,  
When leaves of yellow, or none, or few,  
Hang on boughs where late the sweet birds sang."*

*Wm. Shakespeare*

Thanks for joining us on a very special ride.

MM

## 2016-10-29 – *Dia de Los Muertos*

Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrations are observed the world over, and are especially popular in New Mexico. Dating back to the Aztecs, the annual events honor deceased loved ones with the decoration of cemeteries and the creation of "ofrendas" or alters adorned with favorite foods, photos and mementos. Although superficially resembling Halloween, Dia de Los Muertos is more meaningful - celebrating the idea that death is not to be feared, but embraced as part of life. It is a festive, exuberant time of remembrance.

Belle, Lulu and I were invited to participate in the day-long event at historic Lincoln (best known as the home of Billy the Kid).

*Unlike Halloween masks, Dia de Los Muertos celebrants of all ages have their faces painted with whimsical skull designs.*



## 2016-10-29 – *Dia de Los Muertos*

*Yup. Belle and I got into the spirit of things (Lulu stayed with us all day, but declined to have her face painted).*



## 2016-10-29 – *Dia de Los Muertos*

*It is remarkable that Belle puts up with this stuff . . . and actually enjoys it!*



*That flying "train" would spook most horses.*



*She poses patiently in front of the historic torreón (defensive) tower.*



*Lots of history here - much of it touched by Billy the Kid's presence.*



*But today was filled with more pleasant activities . . . like free apples for Belle!*



*. . . and she enjoyed several terrific mariachi bands. "Oh, goody! My favorite song!"*



*Who likewise enjoyed her.*



*Someone gave her a festive, traditional flower headdress, which she accepted (and wore) with enthusiasm.*



*"I feel pretty, oh so pretty . . ."*



*I think Lulu was a little envious (surprisingly, those flowing ribbons in her face didn't bother Belle one bit!).*



## 2016-10-29 – *Dia de Los Muertos*

*She even did a little boutique shopping along the way. "Hmmm . . . got any plus-size dresses in here?"*



*She compared outfits with other well-dressed ladies . . .*



... posed for more photos ...



... enjoyed more mariachis ...



... and quietly greeted babies who grabbed at her ribbons.



*She's quite a gal. I know she would not want me to share this with you . . . but Belle doesn't like to relieve herself in public. When we finally got back to the trailer and away from the crowds, she let me know she had to go real bad . . . but waited until I had lifted her dress (please don't tell her I showed you this).*



We really had a great time. Thanks for coming along!

MM

## 2016-11-04 – A Sweet Trail

Autumn in New Mexico is typically dry and crisp. But just now we are having a very soggy couple of days; an unusual, slow-moving low pressure system is camped over this part of the state. Rain (always welcome) and fog!

*We knew it was coming - the brilliant sunsets gave clues.*



*So, while the weather was still glorious, we took a ride in town.*

*This is the newest trail at Cedar Creek - we watched it being built by the Americorps volunteers.*



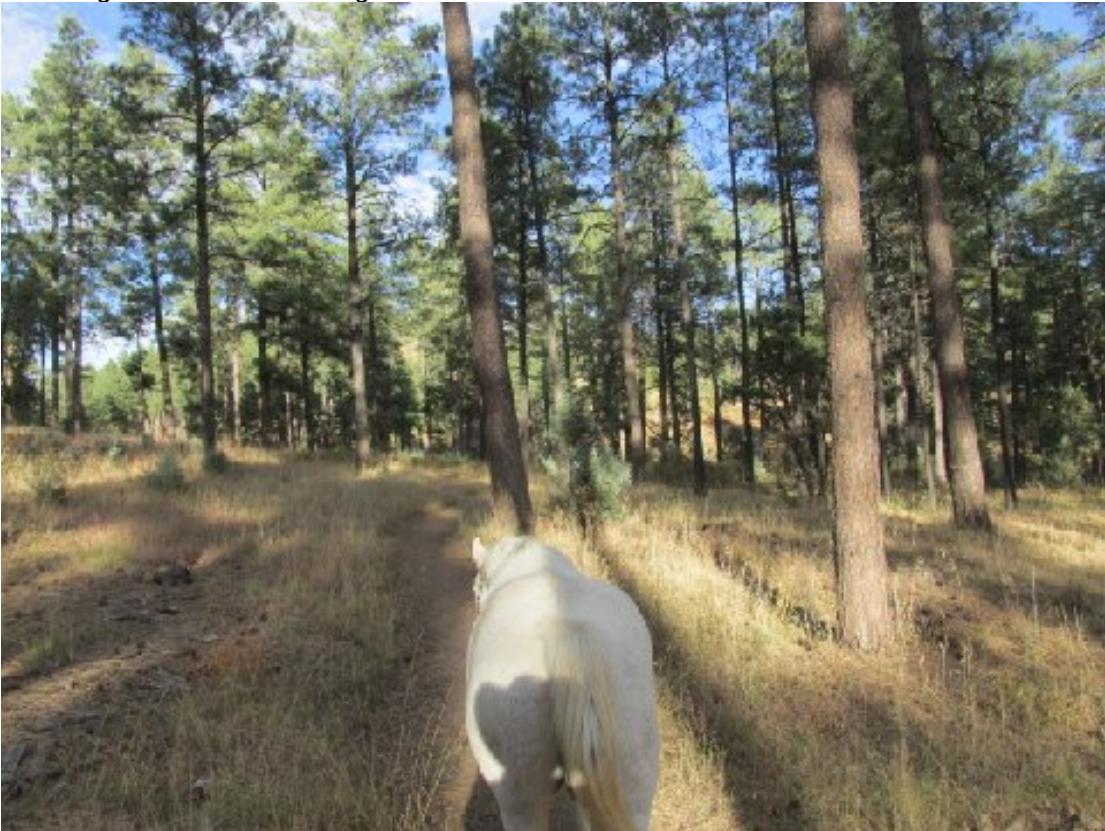
## 2016-11-04 – A Sweet Trail

*Everyone agrees that this is a sweet trail. Lulu jauntily leads the way on a warm afternoon.*



## 2016-11-04 – A Sweet Trail

*It winds through the conifer forest right above Ruidoso.*



*Thunder takes the lead.*



# 2016-11-04 – A Sweet Trail

*He is wonderful about stopping and waiting for us to catch up . . .*



*. . . before continuing on our way.*





*Great views of the Sacramento Mountains.*



*Little brooks still nourish green grass for grazing.*



Yep. Lulu likes this trail!



MM

## 2016-11-10 – A Ranch Project and Two-Headed Deer!

When it comes to ranch chores "you're never done" is an apt expression. Earlier this year the big stock (water) tank below the barn began leaking some. It wasn't a big deal then, since the moisture created a boggy area where the horses and wildlife found green grass all summer long. But that same wet area will soon be freezing over, creating a dangerous ice patch - it had to be remedied.

At first I thought I could drain the tank, dry it out good and repair any little leaks. So that's what I did (which meant about 6" of very wet, heavy stinking muck at the bottom of the tank had to be shoveled out. Yuck . . .) It didn't work - when refilled with water, it leaked worse than before. Darn. The old tank had to be replaced. Since it is half-sunk into the ground, that meant it had to be dug out by hand.

*I was lucky to have the rainy weather last week on my side - though heavy, the wet earth was much easier to dig. It was loads of fun.*



## 2016-11-10 – A Ranch Project and Two-Headed Deer!



*At least the deer enjoyed my efforts. They took time out from their socializing to ponder what I was up to.*



## 2016-11-10 – A Ranch Project and Two-Headed Deer!



*"What the heck is he doing to our pond?", they wondered.*



## 2016-11-10 – A Ranch Project and Two-Headed Deer!

*Finally, the new tank was installed and filled. It will never look sparkling like this again!*



*The horses couldn't wait to use it. "Isn't it beautiful, Thunder?" Belle gushed.*



# 2016-11-10 – A Ranch Project and Two-Headed Deer!

*"Yeah, well, the water tastes good . . ."*



*Lulu thinks so, too.*



# 2016-11-10 – A Ranch Project and Two-Headed Deer!

"Yea - it's finally done!" You can say that again . . .!



Oh . . . and the two-headed deer I promised you . . .



# 2016-11-10 – A Ranch Project and Two-Headed Deer!

*You're too smart - you counted legs, didn't you!*



MM



FOLLOWED  
DREAM  
RANCH

## 2016-11-13 – Arroyos 'n Art

We started with a ride in the desert near the village of Carrizozo.

*This is open cattle country (sharp eyes will spot Nogal Peak on the left).*



*Although we haven't ridden here since the cooler days of spring, the horses remember it well.*



# 2016-11-13 – Arroyos 'n Art

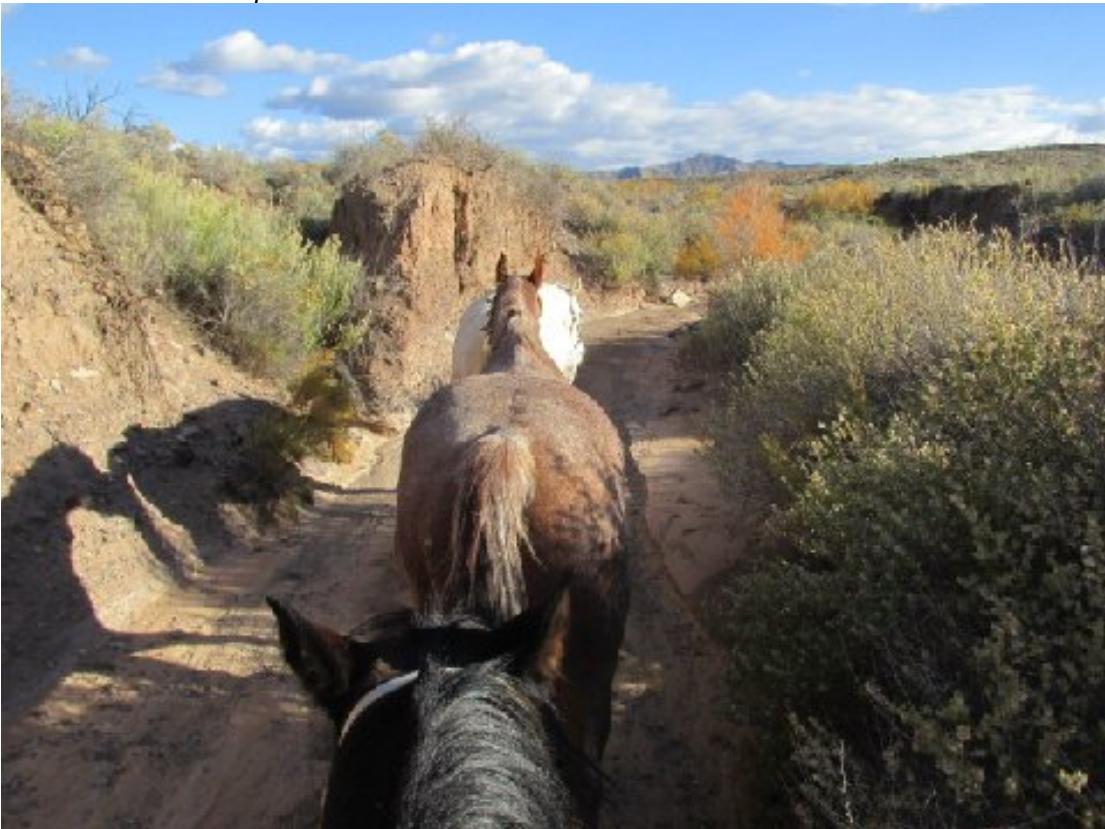
*Rain off the mountains creates some serious arroyos.*



*Mostly sandy bottoms make for nice riding.*



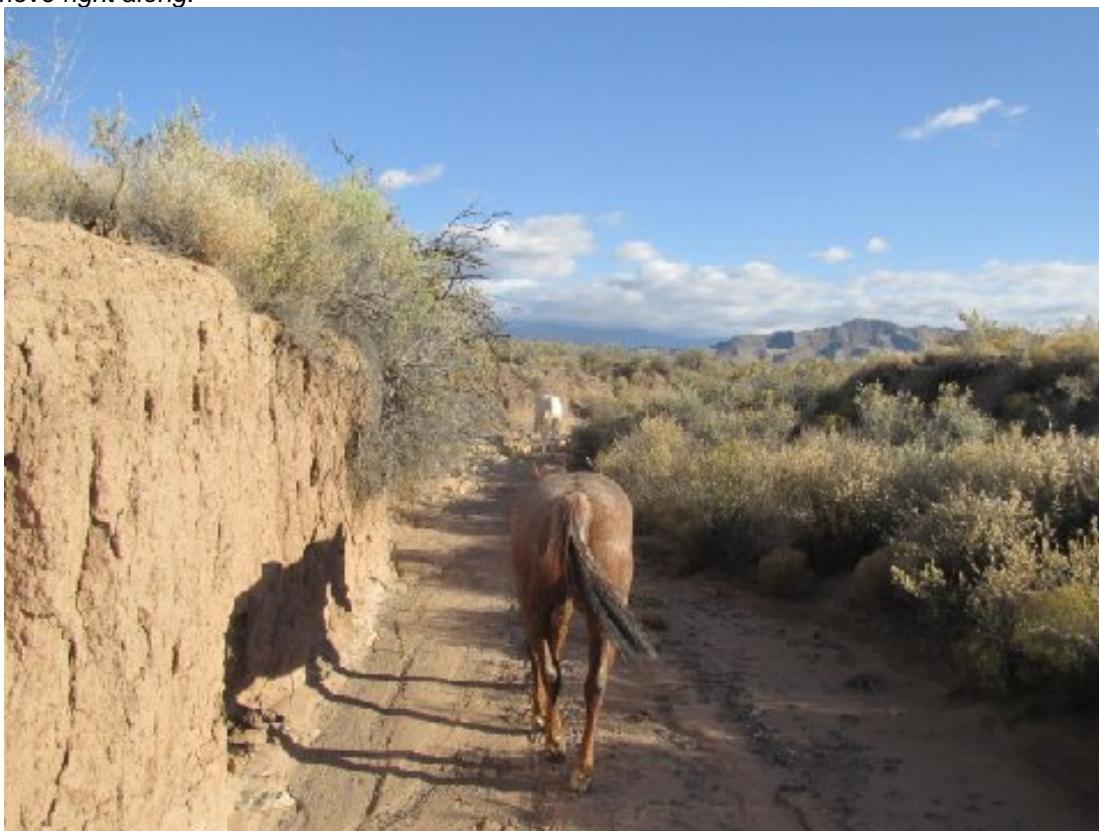
*This is like an amusement park for them.*



*Lulu enjoys it, too.*



*We move right along.*



*Eventually we come up for the return trip.*



# 2016-11-13 – Arroyos 'n Art

*Belle spots the trailer (a tiny white spot in the distance).*



*Thunder and Spanky lead us back.*





*Free grazing in afternoon sun before we head into town.*



## 2016-11-13 – Arroyos 'n Art

Little Carrizozo was left behind as the years passed, and now is a sleepy village of a few hundred residents. Still, they have a surprisingly vibrant cultural scene. They can even boast the biggest photographic arts gallery in New Mexico - on our way home, we stopped by for a big exhibit of photographers featured in this year's New Mexico Magazine photo contest.

*As luck would have it, the horses enjoyed a curbside view right into the gallery.*



## 2016-11-13 – Arroyos 'n Art

*More than 40 photographers are represented, with over 300 works displayed. The gallery is a former hardware store, built in 1917.*



*Lulu was very impressed. "Wow. These photos are great!"*



*"Wait a minute . . . have I looked down there already . . .?"*



It was an interesting day - thanks for coming along!

MM

## 2016-11-13 – *Moonrise Ride*

The "biggest moon since 1948" was predicted - we decided to have a look.

*At sunset, we were riding under a sky on fire.*



*Nogal Peak stands out against the molten clouds like a brooding volcano.*



## 2016-11-13 – *Moonrise Ride*

*To the east, here comes the big moon over Capitan Mountain.*





We kept riding. It was absolutely silent. The moonlight was so bright, the horses cast shadows (wish my camera could capture that).

MM



FOLLOWED  
DREAM  
RANCH

Mommie Cat (left) and Buddy.



MM



FOLLOWED  
DREAM  
RANCH

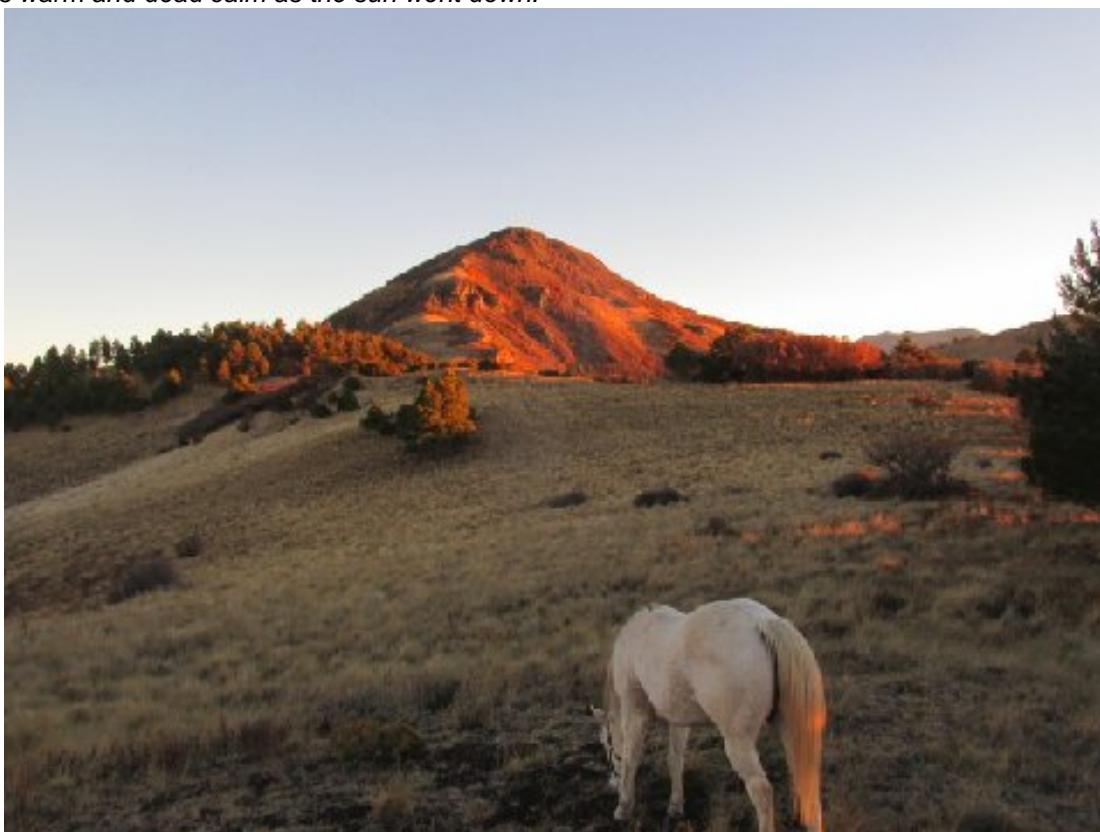
## 2016-11-14 – *On A High Mountain*

Today's ride found us overlooking the sunset from Nogal Peak.

*Fading light, looking north to Carrizo Mountain (9,600 ft.).*



*It was warm and dead calm as the sun went down.*



## 2016-11-14 – *On A High Mountain*

*Spanky knowingly observed some elk across the way.*



*... and then had a sunset Spanky-roll.*



## 2016-11-14 – On A High Mountain

*Belle enjoyed some tasty late-season green grass to munch. "Hey! Mr. cameraman, I don't think that lighting is very flattering on my . . . well, next time try a different angle, please."*



*While Lulu intently enjoys the sunset view.*



## 2016-11-14 – *On A High Mountain*

*This is what she saw - from her eagle's vantage on the mountain.*



*... and this. A beautiful world . . .*



## 2016-11-14 – *On A High Mountain*

*The precious gift of each day.*



We rode down the mountain in quiet darkness, my good companions and I.  
MM



FOLLOWED  
DREAM  
RANCH

## 2016-11-16 – *Single Mom*

With the shorter days, we sometimes run out of daylight before the chores are done. Today we took a last-minute ride out the back gate just as dusk was falling.

*Clouds moving in. We're supposed to have a change of weather - our Indian Summer may at last be over.*



*Oddly calm out - not a breath of wind.*



*We run through the last of the fall leaves.*



*Lulu races to catch up.*



*The horses spot something in the distance. An elk (in the center of the photo).*



*It's a mom with her youngster.*





*Good mom. She keeps an eye on her kid.*





I was at the kitchen sink a few minutes ago, and two elk (likely these two) were on the lawn looking in at me. I guess they followed us home! (Too dark for photos). Nice way to end the day.

MM



FOLLOWED  
DREAM  
RANCH

## 2016-11-17 – *Out Of The Wind*

As predicted, it was windy earlier today. So we hid out from it, deep in Bonito Canyon.

*It was a fine day - and a bonanza for the horses, who enjoyed lots of grass along the water.*



*"Hmmm, Spanky, how do we get to that grass over there?" "I dunno. Why is it always greener on the other side?"*



*This would make a great swimm'in hole on a warmer day.*



*Lulu wonders what they see in grass! "Why are there no milk bones growing here?"*



*Very contented horses.*



*Belle has some sort of radar for the greenest stuff - she always finds it.*



*Even without grazing, Lulu has a wonderful time.*





*Thunder has a drink. Come'on across, Lulu! (she did.)*



*In places, the narrow canyon opens up with park-like stretches.*



*Oh, boy!*



*On the trail home.*



*Back along the river.*



*A final snack.*



*Hey, Lulu . . .*



... *did you have a fun time?*



*You're a very good girl.*



MM

## 2016-11-26 – *Birthday Kitties*

Six years ago today, Onyx, Wilcox, and their siblings (who found other homes) were born.

*Mommie Cat was a very good mom! Here they all are - just minutes old.*



*A few days later - note that she has her "arms" around one of her babies. She was left here (pregnant) at the ranch by the people I bought it from; it was her final litter (all of them were eventually spayed or neutered).*



## 2016-11-26 – *Birthday Kitties*

*Wilcox and his mom.*



*Onyx (left) and Wilcox. From the beginning, they were close to each other - so they stayed together here at home.*



## 2016-11-26 – Close Neighbors

Lately, the elk have been hanging around more at dusk. We often have to wait for them to move out of the way on the road into the ranch in the evening. I guess they have gotten used to us!

*If you look beyond the deer (and the horses) you will see some of the herd in our east pasture.*



## 2016-11-26 – Close Neighbors

*Here, the elk watch the horses do something interesting (I don't know what).*



*Once in a while the horses will give them a curious glance, but generally the neighbors just mosey around together (Belle is more interested in the grass).*





*A couple of calves in the herd (right).*



## 2016-11-26 – Close Neighbors

*The little ones are noisy critters, and make bird-like screeching calls to each other.*



## 2016-11-26 – Close Neighbors

*We never know where we will find them (they like to eat the lawn grass in front of the house late at night). These two are meandering above the barn.*



*They like the newly-replaced stock tank.*





*"Hey! Thanks for the nice clean water!"*



## 2016-11-27 – *Still No Snow*

We're still waiting for the first snow; the horses have enjoyed the milder weather - and the green grass they still find here and there.

*. . . and though the apple tree has lost its leaves, I'm still mowing the lawn . . .*



*Under the long dry stems, there is green grass to find.*



... and in some places, succulent tufts.



Lulu has a drink from a little foot bridge across a brook . . .



## 2016-11-27 – Still No Snow

. . . and waits patiently as they graze. "Hey, Lulu, don't you want some of this while it's still green?" "Uh, no thanks - I'm watching my figure." "Was that a remark?"



*Higher up, under the tall trees.*



*Still, they find snacks along the way.*

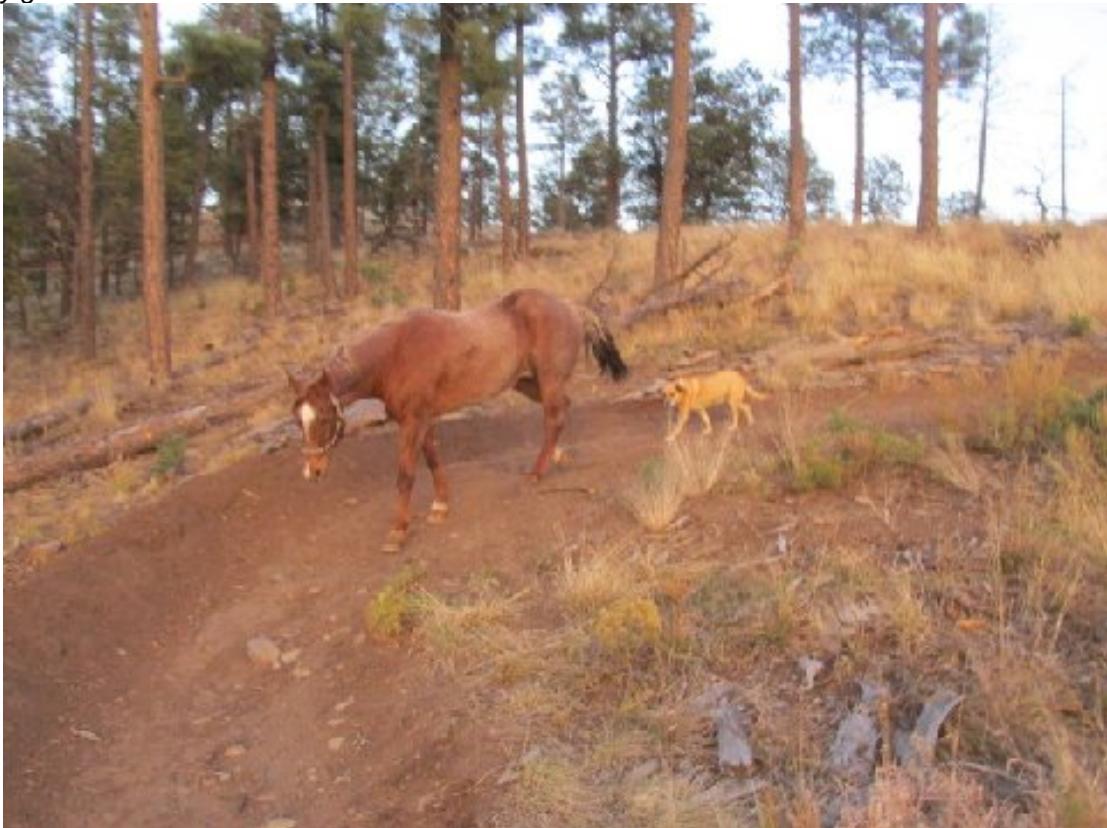


*"Hmmm . . . try some of this up here Spanky, it's tasty."*



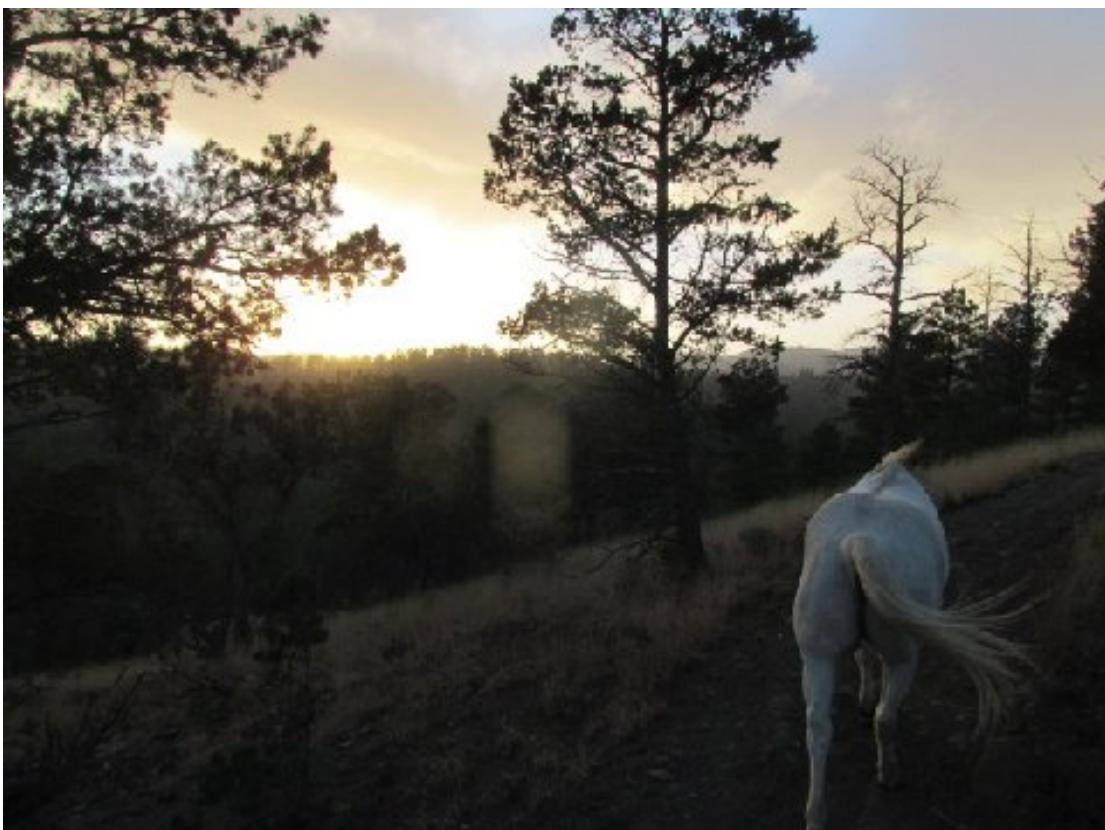


*Nicely groomed trails.*



# 2016-11-27 – Still No Snow

*Just moseying along at sundown.*



*Sierra Blanca Mountain.*



... and twilight through the pines.



MM

## 2016-11-28 – *First Snow*

We woke up this morning to a blanket of white.



*Yesterday . . .*



## 2016-11-28 – *First Snow*



*Wilcox was the first to investigate. "White stuff. Cold. Wet. Oh, yeah . . . I remember." Back inside now for hot cocoa and a nap."*



With bright blue skies, it won't last long . . . but it sure is pretty.

MM

## 2016-12-02 – A Farewell ‘til Spring - Maybe

With snow predicted this weekend, we figured it might be the last time this year to visit one of our all-time favorite high-country spots - Argentina Spring, at the top of the mountain.

*Getting ready to go, we were surprised by an early day visit by the deer family - they bid us a good ride.*



*Just a little snow left on the shady lower trail, from the last storm. We are very cautious of ice . . . Belle is alert.*



*A nice cool drink along the way.*



*"Hey! Last time we were here, everything was green, and the water was not so cold!"*



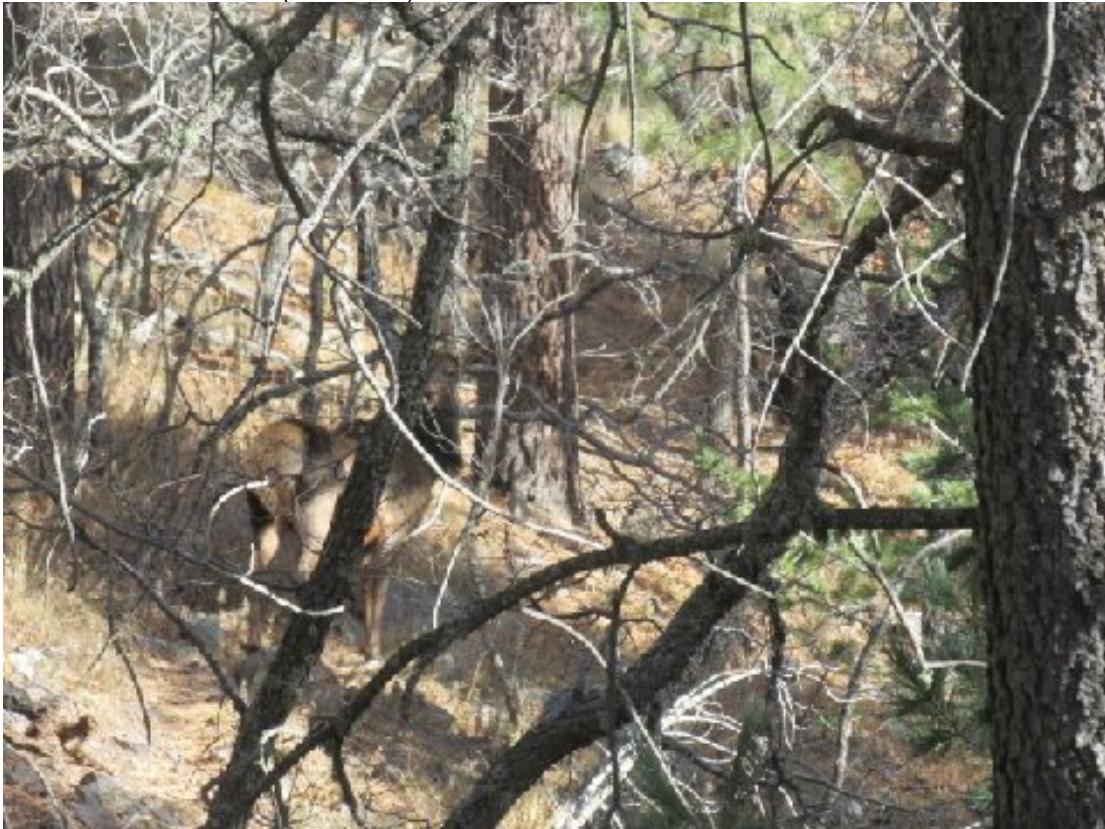
# 2016-12-02 – A Farewell 'til Spring - Maybe

*Twin "Christmas" trees. 'Tis the season.*

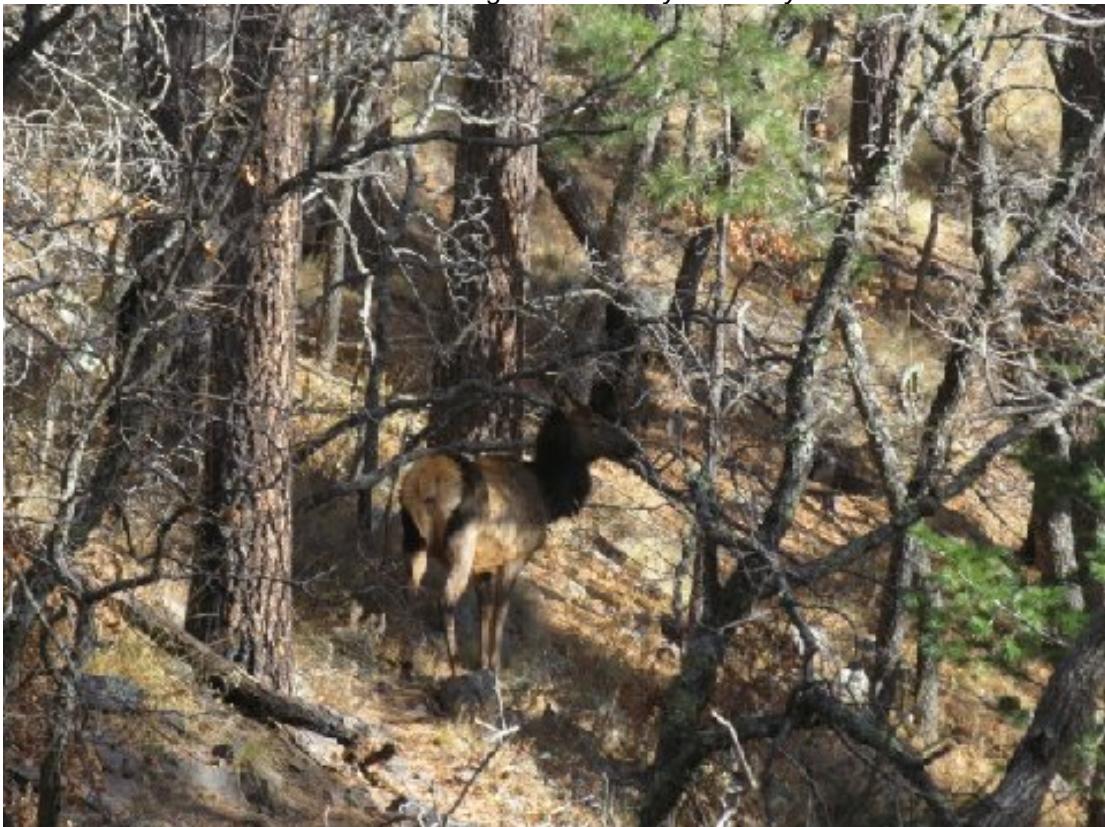


## 2016-12-02 – A Farewell 'til Spring - Maybe

*A hidden friend - see the elk (left-center)?*

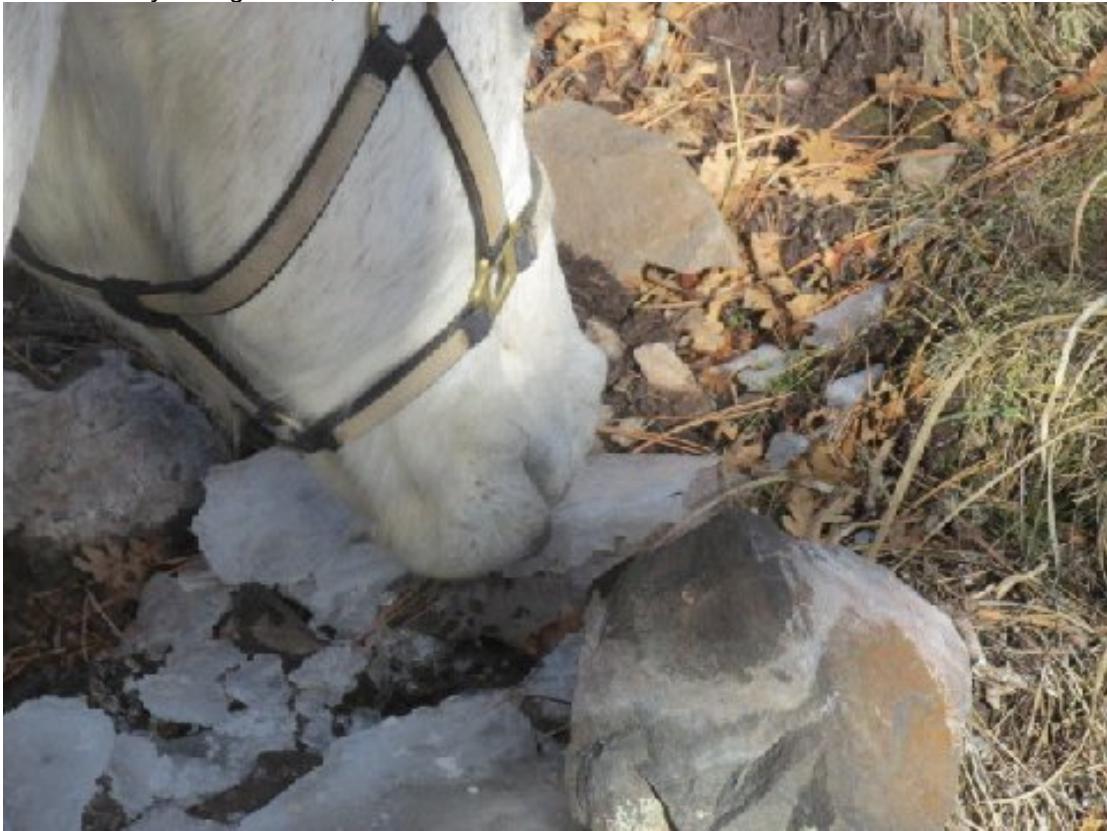


*Another one - we encountered lots of elk during this ride. They are always curious about us.*



## 2016-12-02 – A Farewell 'til Spring - Maybe

*Thunder is actually eating the ice, like a treat!*



*Dash to the sunny top of the mountain - no snow or ice up here.*



## 2016-12-02 – A Farewell ‘til Spring - Maybe

*Spanky has another "top of the world roll" before snow covers his meadow.*



*It was a beautiful, windless day. Lulu and I take a hike, while the horses hunt for acorns under the oaks.*



## 2016-12-02 – A Farewell 'til Spring - Maybe

*Nice to have horses who stay put in the wilderness!*



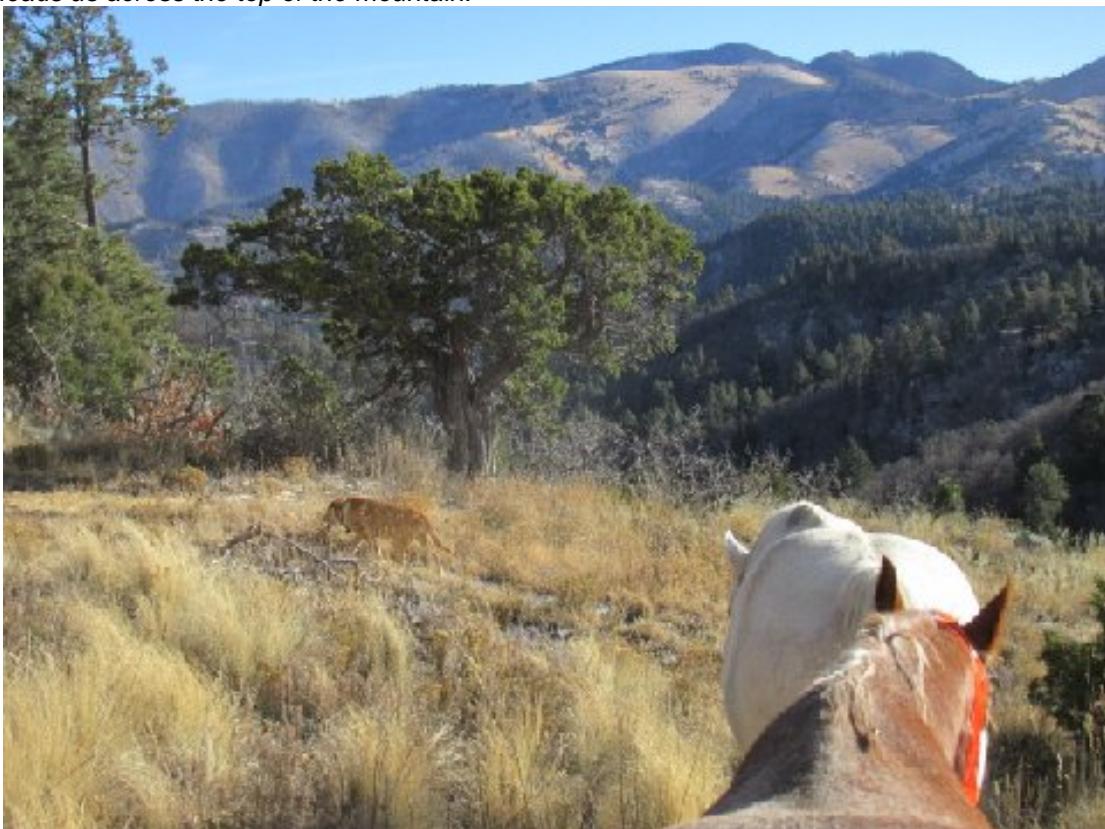
*Meanwhile, happy Lulu does her "Rin-Tin-Tin" impersonation.*



*High above the palisade.*



*Lulu leads us across the top of the mountain.*



*More elk.*



*Wonderful companions.*



# 2016-12-02 – A Farewell 'til Spring - Maybe

*Racing up a ridge at full tilt!*



*They outdistance Belle, with me on her back.*



## 2016-12-02 – A Farewell ‘til Spring - Maybe

Page 11 of 12

*Ahem . . . in an oak grove, Thunder found a way to scratch an itch . . .*



## 2016-12-02 – A Farewell 'til Spring - Maybe

Page 12 of 12

*Riding home under twilight through the pines.*



This was a very special ride. I think the horses understood that it might be awhile before we return to this favorite place. Thanks for joining us!

MM

## 2016-12-02 – One More Chance

It started out sunny this morning. Then the clouds began to roll in. We wondered . . . could we have one more chance to visit the high country before the snow comes? Nogal Peak is close by . . . Hmm . . . Let's go for it!

*Here comes the storm; looking north towards Albuquerque.*

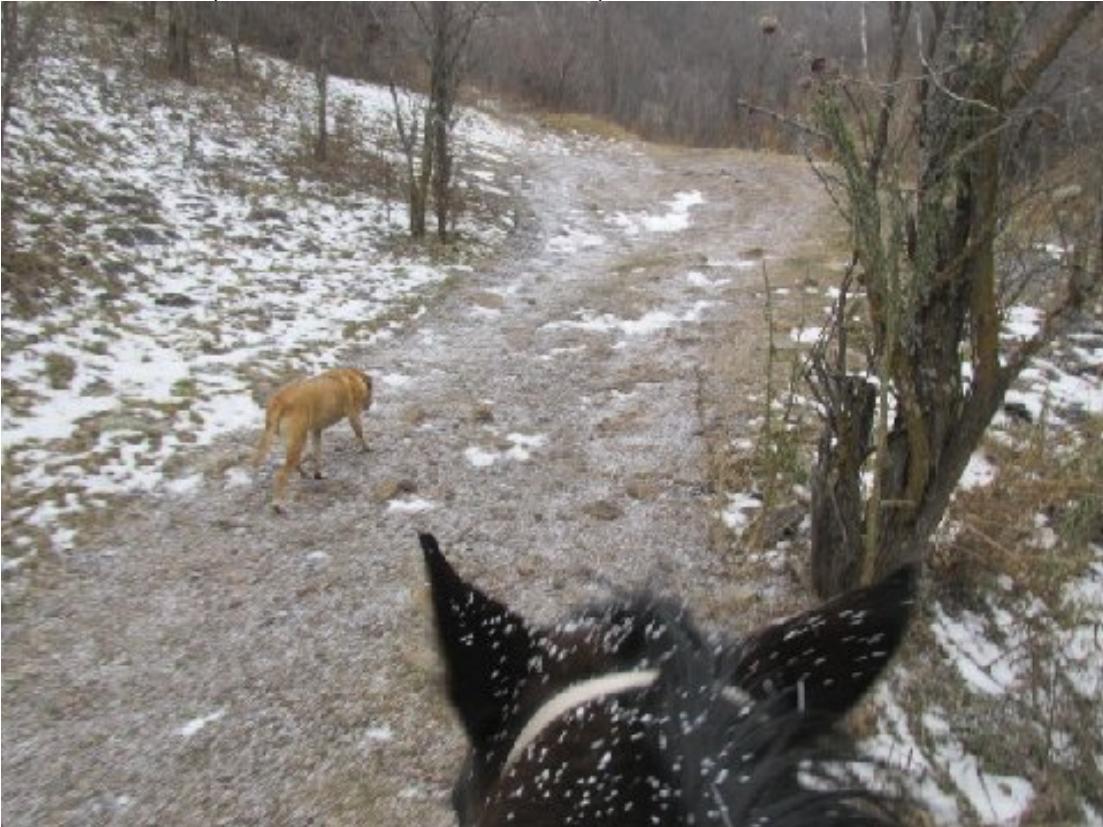


*Dozing cattle, lying along the road, form a welcome committee as we enter the National Forest. It's getting cloudier. (The yellow sign warns that there is no snow removal - travel at your own risk . . .)*



## 2016-12-02 – One More Chance

*At the trail head, snow begins to fall as we head out. It sure doesn't bother Lulu - her thick fur coat keeps her comfortable (but Belle frets about her hair . . .)*



*This is dry "popcorn" snow - the little white balls often come before the big wet flakes.*

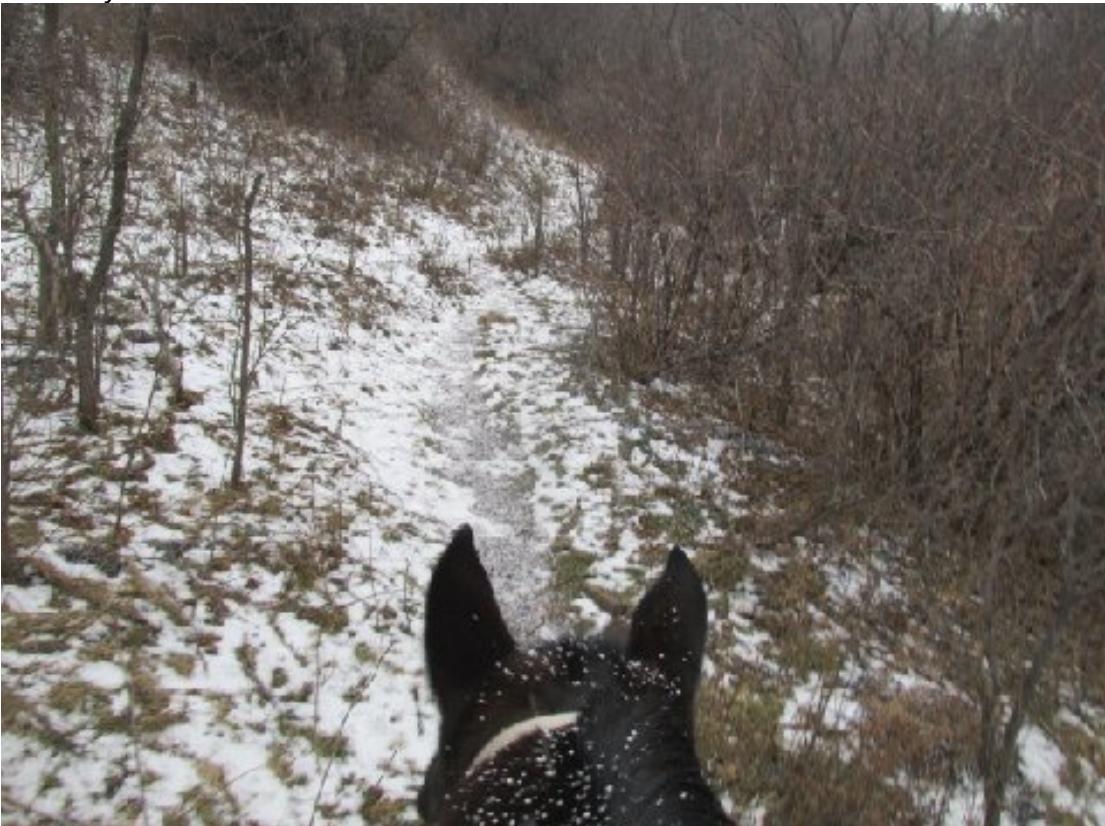


## 2016-12-02 – One More Chance

*The horses still find green grass along the way. They know this treat will disappear soon.*



*Belle is on the lookout. Riding in snow isn't a problem - we all love to gallop through powdery drifts - but up here, bright sunlight can melt the snow, which then re-freezes into dangerously slippery ice. That's why we figure this will be our last ride up here of the season. When more snow comes, it will likely become too icy.*



## 2016-12-02 – *One More Chance*

*We have none of those worries today, and take full advantage of the moment.*



*We all race up a draw to the top. The clouds are cooperating, giving us a little break.*





*We spend a lot of time gazing wistfully at the high-country views. We will miss these moments.*



## 2016-12-02 – One More Chance

*It's a genuinely peaceful world up here. Across the valley, snow is drifting gently down on Carrizo Mountain.*



*. . . but those clouds are coming our way . . . fast!*



## 2016-12-02 – One More Chance

*We linger for as long as we dare. Soon, a ceiling of dead-gray "snow clouds" hangs low over our heads. Time to start down.*



*It's beginning to snow for real now. "Hurry up with your snacks - we gotta go!"*



"Aww, gee . . ."



*Back at the trail head, we pause for some nostalgic grazing - remembering summer's lush green grass - before heading home.*



We've been fortunate to enjoy the high country again this summer, and well into the fall. For all their size and strength, horses are actually fragile animals - many things can go wrong, . . . and then there is Spanky's ring bone condition . . . all of this makes us appreciate how very precious such moments really are. We take nothing for granted, and hope to have many, many more of them. MM

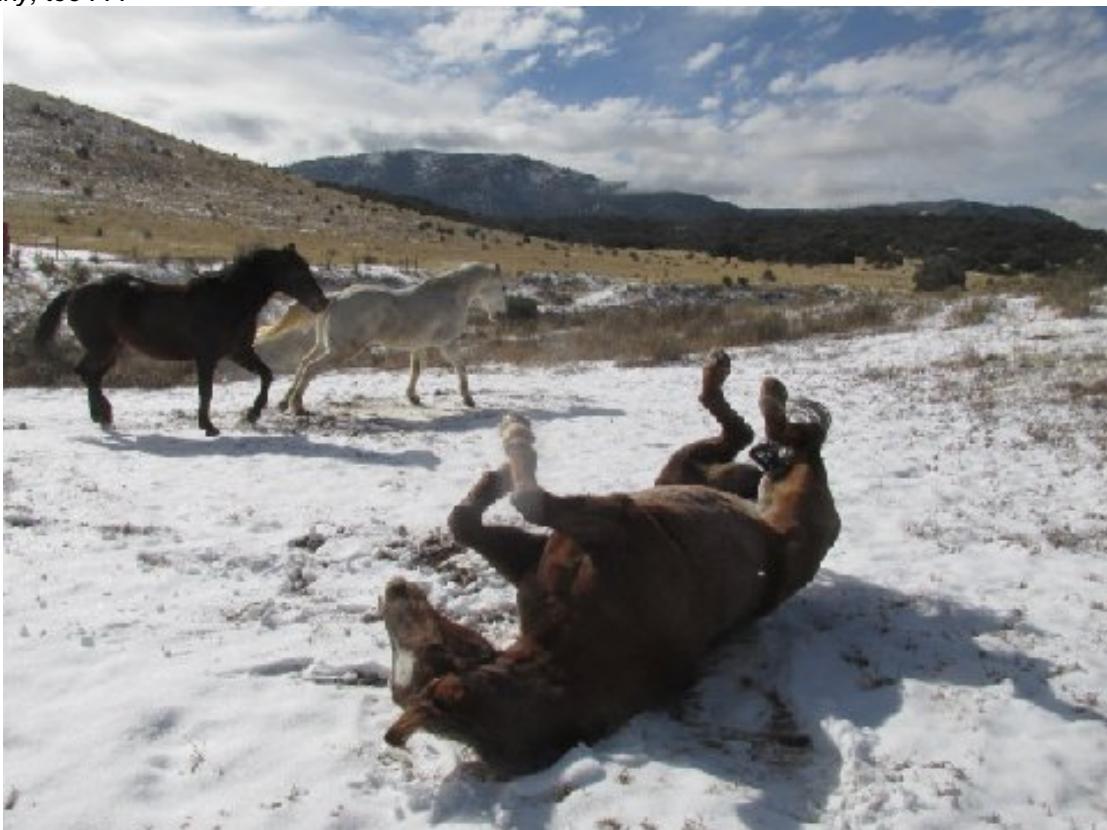
## 2016-12-03 – *Angel Time*

The snow storm seems to have passed.

*First thing out of the barn - snow angel time!*



*Spanky, too . . .*



*Hmmm . . . Belle thinks that is a pretty cool idea.*



*"Whee!"*



End of Volume 11 - Part 3 of 3

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“How blessed I have felt to be able to follow Matthew’s story. He has been a friend for many years through our love and respect of animals. I am in awe of his ability to connect with his four legged family ... to discover his ways of winning trust ... to share the most intimate level of companionship with horses ... to find out how he made his dreams come true!”

—Kim Novak



Come along and ride with us!