



March 2026

Newsletter

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CAHC At A Glance

Your Club Officers and Board of Directors

President	Stephen Bishop	stephenbishop@comcast.net
Vice-President&DelegateChair	Kelly Meyer	mrsbrentmeyer@gmail.com
Secretary	Eri Hook	cahcsecretary@gmail
Treasurer	Cheryl McMahan	CherylMc22@gmail.com
Immediate Past President	Chuck Mangan	

Directors

Jim Hitt Michelle Taylor Grace Rushing Carrie Jacobucci Mark Helmick Bliss Hancock

Trisha Swift-Northern Div
Lauren Payne-SouthernDiv

Junior Club Advisor	Angela Mannick	hockeyandhorsemom@gmail.com
Horse Judging Leader	Kendra McConnell	
Horse Judging Leader	Rachel LeClure	
Communication and Website	Kelly Meyer	
Membership	Cheryl McMahan	
Newsletter Editor	Stephen Bishop	

The CAHC Board is made up by the following:

Executive Committee:

Stephen Bishop - President
Kelly Meyer - Vice President
Cheryl McMahon - Treasurer
Eri Hook - Secretary
Chuck Mangan - Immediate Past President

Board Members expiring in 2026 (Elected in 2024 to serve a 2 year term)

Bliss Hancock
Mark Helmick
Carrie Jacobucci

Board Members expiring in 2027 (Elected in 2025 to serve a 2 year term)

Jim Hitt
Grace Rushing
Michelle Taylor

Southern Division Representatives:

Lauren Payne
MaryJo Hoepner

Northern Division Representatives:

Trisha Swift
Shari McGinn (I think she was the 2nd rep from Northern Division but we'd have to check with Trisha to be sure)

Youth Advisor:

Angela Mannick

The following are the committee chairs as I know them. They do not hold a vote on the Board meetings unless they are listed above. I just took Eri's list and made a couple of comments.

ACTIVITIES – Kelly Meyer (this is always the club's VP)

AHA CLUB EXCELLENCE AWARD – Grace Rushing

AWARDS – Angela Mannick (for Youth awards) and Bliss Hancock (for Adult awards)

BY-LAWS – This committee chair would be appointed if we were working on Bylaw changes. No specific person otherwise so it can probably come off the agenda.

CABA – Jim Gromelski

COLORADO HORSE COUNCIL – Steve Bishop

COMMUNICATIONS – Mark Helmick

COMMUNITY RELATIONS – I don't know that we have a committee chair for this.

CONVENTION: Delegates – Grace Rushing / Liz Wheeler

DRESSAGE – Mary Jo Hoepner

FINANCE – Executive Committee

FINANCIAL REVIEW – This is Gwen Mahoney. She doesn't need to be at any of the meetings unless we are doing a financial review. This can probably come off the standing agenda and would need to be added during a review.

HUNTER JUMPER – Chuck Mangan

INSURANCE – Lauren Payne

MEMBERSHIP – Cheryl McMahon

NEWSLETTER – Stephen Bishop

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Michelle Taylor

VOLUNTEER AWARDS COMMITTEE – This was Jerry. He did both the Volunteer of the year award and President's award. This doesn't really need to be an agenda item unless you appoint someone, and we discuss it at the meetings. Jim Hitt may know if this committee used to do something else, but it hasn't as long as I've been on the board.

WORKING HORSE – Jim Hitt



Upcoming Events & Shows

No Frills Classic Spring Show

April 23-26th

Colorado Arabian Horse Club
Profit & Loss Budget Overview
 January 1 through March 7, 2026

	Jan 1 - Mar 7, 26
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Awards - Show Contributions	225.00
Cow Horse Days Income	4,500.00
Delegate Show Contributions	450.00
Dues - Membership Income	2,200.00
Fall Show Income	
FS - Trail Equipment	150.00
Fall Show Income - Other	28,000.00
	28,150.00
Total Fall Show Income	28,150.00
Interest Income	2.00
No Frills Income	
NF - Trail Equipment Fee	100.00
No Frills Income - Other	40,500.00
	40,600.00
Total No Frills Income	40,600.00
Ribbon Income	100.00
Services	
Parent Club	225.00
	225.00
Total Services	225.00
Show Software (Best Mess)	400.00
Youth Club Donations	500.00
	900.00
Total Income	77,352.00
Expense	
Awards Party	200.00
CAHC Donations -Expense	100.00
CHD - Show Expenses	3,000.00
Computer/Software Expenses	100.00
Corporation Expenses	25.00
Delegate Funds	2,000.00
Education - Youth Judging	1,600.00
Fall Show - Expenses	27,500.00
Insurance	800.00
Internet Expenses	250.00
Licensing Fees	400.00
Member Acknowledgements & Gifts	200.00
No Frills - Show Expenses	38,000.00
President's Annual Award	200.00
Tax and Accounting Services	1,500.00
Trailer Licenses & Tax	150.00
Treasurer Expense	150.00
Volunteer of the Year	100.00
Year End Awards	200.00
Youth Club Expenditures	300.00
	76,775.00
Total Expense	76,775.00
Net Ordinary Income	577.00
Net Income	577.00

Adult High Point Awards for 2025

Country/English:

PB: Mackinaw Express - Owner Molly Oshea

HA: N/A

Hunter:

PB: Dancing in Dior - Owner Edie Howell

HA: Xcelerator EF - Owner Kristen Meyer

Western:

PB: Fusion CCA - Owner Kathleen A Kelly

HA: Cowgirls Dont Cry WF - Owner Mark & Debbie Helmich

Working Western:

PB: WCF Mark Me Up - Owner Delaney Or Roxanne Haight

HA: TR Butch Cassidy - Owner Bonnie Bunker And Brielle Stack

(if not split by breed TR Butch Cassidy is overall high point)

Versatility:

TR Butch Cassidy - Owner Bonnie Bunker And Brielle Stack

Sport Horse:

MDA A Dark Skyy+// -

Halter:

Maveryck - Owner Michelle Taylor Or Samantha Ganze

New Officers are:

- President - Lauren Payne
- Vice-President - Mary Jo Hoepner
- Secretary - Kathy Scott
- Treasurer - Liz Wheeler
- Directors: Kea Kerchival
- Tracey Meissel
- Kim Grove

Regarding the Latigo One Day Horse Show.

Dear members,

The Southern Division would like to thank Liz Wheeler for her Division guidance and her very successful term as President. In addition to her Board and Delegate duties, she has Managed the Latigo One Day Horse show for 15 years! She is a great asset to our Club.

The Southern Division Board has reviewed the show data from the recent Latigo horse shows. The show has been experiencing declining exhibitors and with rising costs coming in 2026 the Southern Division Board has cancelled the 2026 Latigo One Day Horse Show.

And Members, this is where we need your help!

The Southern Division will be sending out a member survey soon. This survey will help the Division move forward. However, if you have ideas or comments that you would like to express now please email me at lpayne7890@outlook.com

Thank you for your time,

Lauren Payne, President

Northern Division

President: Trisha Swift

Vice President: Shari McGinn

Secretary: Jeanne Pertillo

Treasurer: Cathy Nelson

Katie Kosak (left) and Trisha Swift recently judged a regional competition for the Special Olympics in Florida



The boy with the ribbon is Braden, a rider from Brevard Equestrian Center. The pic of me, I am with Katie Kosak, my co-judge for trail. The awards pic is all Brevard Equestrian Center riders.

On March 1, 2026, I had a defining moment of my life. Not in a bad way, but in a very good way! I was honored to be the judge of a regional equestrian competition for the Special Olympics at Brevard Equestrian Center in Florida. I judged the dressage and then I co-judged the trail.

Of course, all of the riders faced challenges, both cognitive and physical, but every single one of those 97 competitors that I saw were overjoyed to be riding a horse. For those moments, they were not limited, but rather were empowered by the wonderful and patient horses that they rode.

Some riders took the competition quite seriously, making sure their backs were straight, their heels were down, their eyes were up, and they were using their reins and legs to the best of their ability. They knew that a blue ribbon meant they have a chance to go to the state Special Olympics at WEC, March 27-28. Other riders hung onto the saddle and did their best to remember to look between the ears of the patient horse that carried them. Some riders rode independently and remembered their trail pattern perfectly. Other riders needed side walkers and a leader, and needed to be coached through their pattern. But there was one thing that all the riders possessed:

The biggest smiles I have ever seen!

They appreciated so much what I often take for granted: the time spent on horseback. Growing up on an Arabian breeding farm, I always had the opportunity to ride. And, yes, I usually take these opportunities for granted. These kids and adults reminded me that I need to cherish every opportunity. We all have challenges, but these riders don't let their challenges hold them down. Instead, they rise above those challenges by getting up on a horse.

I am so grateful for the time I spent judging that show in Florida so that I could bring these lessons back to Colorado and share them with my friends and students. And every time I feel discouraged by my rides or I take my horses for granted, may I remember those smiles gleaming in the Florida sun. Trisha Swift



Junior

Colorado Arabian Horse Club News

Get Involved!!

Don't forget to send in your entry forms and tell all of your 4-H friends about this year's 4-H Extravaganza and 4-H youth clinics.

Join us Friday evening, April 24th, during the Spring No Frills Classic Show to celebrate all of the CAHC 2025 Youth High Point Award winners!



JCAHC YOUTH SILENT AUCTION
We Need Donations

We are looking for silent auction donations to benefit youth activities and year-end High Point Awards!

Scholarship Opportunities

- **National Arabian Horse Judging Contest**

Contestants in the National Arabian Horse Judging Contest at U.S. Nationals in October have the opportunity to win \$7,000 in total individual and team scholarship awards across the three divisions: 4-H/FFA, Junior AHA, and Senior AHA/Collegiate.

- **Burr Betts Memorial College Scholarship**

Two scholarships of \$1,000 each to be awarded to two incoming college Freshmen or current undergraduate or graduate students, or to incoming or current students at a trade school or other post high school educational program of at least one year in length. Applicant must be a member of an AHA Region 8 affiliated club. Applicant must have completed at least 8 hours of volunteer service to Region 8, the affiliated club, or other equine organization in the year prior to application. **Deadline is May 1.**

- **Rise Up and Ride On**

Interested in attending youth nationals for the first time? Apply for our grant to help cover your entry fees! Offered through Region 9's Youth page, entries are **due by May 8th.**

You can reach Angela Mannick, JCAHC Youth Director, at 303-324-3507
or HockeyandHorseMom@gmail.com

Youth High Point Awards 2025

Western Pleasure 10 & Under - Crake Tucker

Western Pleasure 14-18 - Grace Landwehr

Equitation 14-18 - Grace Landwehr

Working Western Overall - Brielle Stack



Membership Application

For faster and more efficient Affiliate Membership processing, you can join Online at www.arabianhorses.org Please be sure to mark CAHC (Club #8033) as your Affiliate Club.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____ AHA #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

(Very important to receive club information, news and updates)

CAHC/AHA AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP – Affiliate Individual Membership (AHA Member with AHA, Region 8 and CAHC Benefits to include Voting Privilege in each)

Base Affiliate Membership without Competition Card

Adult 1 Year @ \$75.00 \$ _____
Adult 3 Year @ \$205.00 \$ _____
Youth 1 Year @ \$25.00 \$ _____

YOUTH BIRTHDATE: _____

Base AHA/CAHC Affiliate Membership with Competition Card & Insurance

Adult 1 Year @ \$110.00 \$ _____
Adult 3 Year @ \$310.00 \$ _____
Youth 1 Year @ \$50.00 \$ _____

CAHC ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP – Associate Individual Membership (Not an AHA member, or does not have AHA affiliation through CAHC: all benefits of membership except those specific to AHA and Region 8; no voting privilege in any organization). **Associate memberships expire 12/31 of each year.**

Adult 1 Year @ \$25.00 \$ _____
Adult 3 Year @ \$70.00 \$ _____
Youth 1 Year @ \$5.00 \$ _____
TOTAL: \$ _____

DIVISION INTEREST (Check all that apply): MAIN CLUB NORTHERN SOUTHERN YOUTH

Areas of Interest:

Club Officer Director _____
Activities _____
Awards Committee _____
Youth _____
Horse Shows _____
Show Manager _____
Show Secretary _____
Barn Manager _____
Gates Manager _____
Hospitality _____

Other (List any area you would like involvement with):

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CAHC AND MAIL TO: Cheryl
McMahon, 21710 E. Heritage Parkway, Aurora, CO 80016 (303)
881-7203

In Depth:

Declining Membership in Horse Breed Associations

Breed association memberships have declined over the past 30 years. I reached out to Denise Parker who is our membership and club liaison at the Arabian horse Association. She sent me these membership numbers for the past five years.

2025 - 13,924

2024 - 14,232

2023 - 14,734

2022 - 15,249

2021 - 14,998

I did a more global survey breed associations through Google AI and found that most of the breed associations had had a significant loss of memberships since 1996.

"Membership in the Arabian Horse Association (AHA) has declined significantly over the past 30 years,

reflecting a broader downturn in the breed's popularity and industry participation. Data indicates

membership plummeted by approximately 64% from over 40,000 to around 15,000–18,000 in recent years.

Furthermore, annual purebred Arabian horse registrations have dropped by over 90% since their peak in 1985.

Key details regarding the decline include:

Membership Numbers: Membership dropped from over 40,000 in previous decades to 15,862 in recent

reports, with a 6.3% decline noted in 2019 alone.

Registration Drops: Registrations fell from 35,000 in 1985 to roughly 2,100–2,800 annually by 2022.

Industry Impact: Local and regional show participation has decreased.

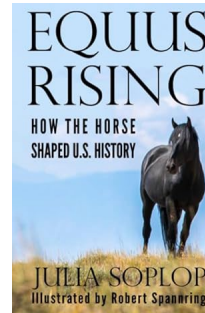
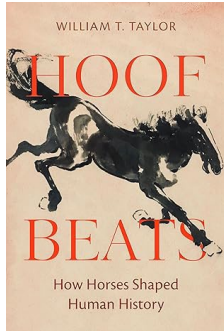
Causes: Factors include a shift in breed popularity, rising costs for registration and breeding, and potential

issues with industry image."

"The American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) had a peak membership of about 330,000 back in 2005. Today it is closer to 220,000. They have actually had a small increase in membership over the past few years." The AQHA is the largest American horse breed association.

Similar declines have been seen over the past 20 years in the American Saddlebred Association, the American Morgan Horse Association, and the American Paint Horse Association. The American Ranch Horse Association membership has actually had a strong growth in recent years, "boasting a family oriented environment that was attracting new members to its' show, clinics and sales." Some of the competition oriented associations like the United States Equestrian Federation have actually increased their membership since 1996, but they have added a user-friendly "fan" membership category which added 91,000 members who are not competitors. The United States Dressage Federation, on the other hand, has experienced a similar decline in membership, similar to the breed associations. That decline went hand-in-hand with declines in participation in dressage shows around the country. We do not have exact numbers for our

CAHC, but long-time members have indicated that our numbers have definitely declined since 1996. That is one of many reasons why we have had to cancel the Holiday Hoorah Horse Show, and now the Latigo Show due to declining participation.



MED/VET: Stephen J Bishop MD, Michael Scott DVM

The Origin of the (horse) Species

The two books illustrated above are excellent renditions of the history of the horse and its interactions with humans. Hoof Beats reviews the evolution of the horse from its origins in North America and then into Eurasian continent. Equus Rising is a review focusing more on the horse in the USA. Below is a photo of William Taylor on the right and myself on the left. The photo was taken at one of William's first book signings in December of 2024.



Ungulates (hoofed animals) developed 65 million years ago at the time of the non-avian dinosaur extinction. Over the next 10 million years, the ungulates diverged into two groups: the **Perissodactyls** (odd numbered toes) and the **Artiodactyls** (even numbered toes). Equines (horses, donkeys, zebras) belong to the **Perissodactyls** along with rhinoceros and tapirs. The **Artiodactyls** include all of the other ungulates such as cattle, sheep, deer, camels, pigs, etc. Both groups populated the Americas, Eurasia and Africa.

Another way to categorize ungulates is in regards to their gastrointestinal fermentation. **Artiodactyls** are almost all ruminants, meaning they ferment their feed in a three or four chambered stomach with regurgitation and rechewing their cud. Pigs are the exception to that rule. Pigs ferment their feed in their hindgut (enlarged caecum) similar to the **Perissodactyls** with no regurgitation or rechewing.

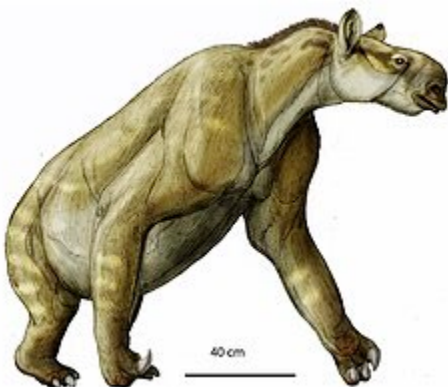
Yet another way to categorize ungulates is with the more informal “browsers versus grazers.” Equines (horse, donkey, zebra) are all grazers, meaning they eat grasses. **Artiodactyls** can be grazers (cows) or browsers (deer). Browsers eat leaves and shrubs up off the ground.

The first ancestor of horses was eohippus, the Dawn Horse, which evolved about 50 million years ago.



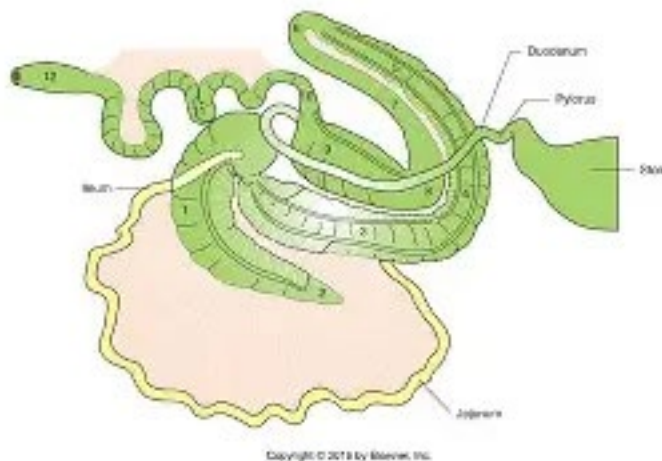
[Museum für Naturkunde](#), Berlin

Eohippus was an obligate browser, similar to modern day sloths. In fact, Chalicotherium was a large, sloth-like **Perissodactyl** that lived in parallel to the evolving horse ancestors.



Wikipedia

Chalicotherium was an obligate browser, similar to the eohippus. However, as Earth gradually cooled after the dinosaur extinction, grassy plains took over much of North America. Chalicotherium went extinct at the same time that equines began to flourish 5 million years ago in North America, because equines evolved into grazers. Horses evolved a large hindgut-caecum which was able to ferment the sparse vegetation of the arid plains. The expanded hindgut allowed them to survive on less palatable feed than the ruminants. Curiously, we humans also ferment in our caecum and colon, but the products are not absorbed into the bloodstream. The lining of the colon does make use of the fermentation products, though, so we humans depend to a small degree on fermentation, as well. The appendix is an offshoot of the caecum in a variety of mammals and is thought to aid the caecum and colon in fermentation. As one can see from the diagram below, the caecum (#1) in horses is extraordinarily large which is where horses ferment vegetation.



Iowa State University

North America and Asia have been geographically linked off and on over the past 80 million years. The Equus genus (equine, rhinoceros, tapir) spread from North America to Asia, Europe, and Africa about 4 million years ago. Curiously, all equines became extinct in the Americas about 10,000 years ago at the end of the last Ice Age. That extinction was probably due to a

combination of climate change and overhunting by the newcomer, Homo Sapiens. Equines were prey to early humans in both continents before domestication began in Central Asia about 4 thousand years ago. Horses and donkeys were first raised as food. Then, donkeys were used for transport. In the next 3 thousand years, Central Asia was the site of major breakthroughs in riding technology. This occurred in a geographic area called “The Steppes,” which is a grassy plain that extends from Hungary to Beijing.



Wikipedia

The first transport was a cart pulled by a donkey and later by a horse. The primitive chariot evolved from carts. Chariots were first used for transport, but eventually used in warfare. About 800 B.C., Central Asian nations began to mount horses, using archaic saddles, bridles and stirrups. Horse dominated empires flourished in the Asian Steppes long before the first cavalry-based empire of Alexander the Great. In fact, the Macedonians learned a great deal from the Scythian Empire of The Steppes, who attempted to conquer Macedonia about the time that Alexander was born. Decades later, Alexander recruited Scythians into his cavalry when he was wrapping up the conquest of the far eastern Persian (Archaemenid) Empire. Though history is focused mostly on the development of European empires and kingdoms, the Central Asian horse-empires continued to flourish throughout the European and Muslim Empires. I had thought that the Mongolian Empire arose out of nowhere. In fact, the Central Asian cultures had continued to develop their skills up until Genghis Khan, who used those skills to conquer the largest empire in history. For a variety of reasons, the Mongols were much better on horseback than in administration, leading to the collapse of their

empire not long after it began. In contrast, people tell me that I am much better on a committee and on a computer than I am on a horse. (OUCH! That leaves a mark!)

Domesticated horses and related technology spread throughout Europe. Cavalry continued to be used in warfare up through and including WWI. During the time of Columbus, the Spaniards introduced horses into the New World, replacing the extinct horses that died out 11,000 years before. As we all know, horses are prone to escape captivity. The North American Steppes, now known as The Great Plains, were an ideal habitat for these caecum fermenters which we call Mustangs. Mustangs are actually feral horses, rather than indigenous wild horses, since the original North American species are now extinct. [Equus Rising](#) charts the development of the horse in North America for all sorts of purposes. The Mustangs became the hallmark of the Horse Nations of The Great Plains, similar to the original equestrian empires of Central Asia. The Comanche, Arapahoe, Lakota, Prince Nez tribes and many others, produced large and effective horse-based nations. The turning point in that development was the Battle of the Little Big Horn, which was a brilliant, but ephemeral victory over the US Cavalry. After 1876, Native Americans were overcome by major reinforcements of the US Cavalry which eventually ended the Plains Indian Wars. Cavalry was a major part of our Civil War on both sides. The Spaniard, DeSoto, introduced horses to Florida and the East Coast back in the 1500's. The Southeastern USA continues to have feral horses to this day, primarily on the barrier islands

Through the remainder of the 1800's, horses continued to be the dominant mode of transport. Even though railroads brought goods to all parts of the country, horses were needed to transport from train stations to homes and businesses. They even used a horse "engine" to drive a ferry from Brooklyn to Manhattan until the Brooklyn Bridge made ferries unnecessary. My great grandfather had such a ferry business which went bankrupt due to the Brooklyn Bridge. Another great grandfather worked alongside Washington Roebling to build that bridge. At the turn of the century (1900) the USA had 25 million horses. After the development of the internal combustion engine, that

number has dwindled to 5 million today, including mustangs. The Colorado Arabian Horse Club represents the primary, current use of horses, that is, for recreation and sport.