

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 5/14/2014 6:00 AM | Meeting location GRMC Conference Room

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Jim Alexander, Susan Austin, Libby Beck, Cathy Brett, Sharon Brown, Dawn Byrum, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Mike Dowd, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Judy Brown Lawson, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Mara Miles, Peggy Netz, Cheryl Roth, Randy Roth, Donna Tillmann, Ilene Wignall, Nathan Williams, Laurie Wlosinski

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic Call to order | Presenter Doug Dexter

This evening's agenda included a presentation by Dr. Britton Bradberry, one of the partners who have taken over the retiring Linda Locklar's practice. Doug commented that he's not pushing anybody to patronize any particular veterinary operation; rather he thought the Gila BCH chapter members would be interested to hear what Dr. Bradberry has to say. In addition, Doug said, Dr. Bradberry would distribute information about first aid for horses.

Agenda topic Education | Presenter Britton Bradberry, Advanced Veterinary Care

Dr. Britton Bradberry, a native of Cliff, NM, received his degree in veterinary science at New Mexico State University (Las Cruces), where he met his wife, Dr. Shelby Bradberry. After practicing in Las Cruces for several years, and picking up skills in veterinary specialties, the couple wanted to return to Silver City and to bring progressive veterinary care here. The Silver City practice offers surgical procedures for both large and small animals and will be expanding their facility on Piños Altos Road to provide more sophisticated surgeries for horses as well as advanced diagnostic services.

The practice currently makes ranch calls for both large and small animals and is equipped for mobile ultrasound diagnoses. Dr. Shelby is currently going through the veterinary board certification process; when she finishes, she will be one of only six board-certified veterinarians in New Mexico.

Advanced Veterinary Care is committed to staying current with veterinary information and techniques, such as differential diagnosis (the process of differentiating between two or more conditions that share similar signs and symptoms; important because the differential test results can confirm or change an initial diagnosis, resulting in more accurate care. The practice is also committed to conducting full physical examinations—and taking sufficient time to do so.

Advanced Veterinary Care is part of the after-hours and weekends emergency rotation scheme shared by the other three veterinary practices in Silver City. Visit their web site for hours and email contact (<http://www.advancedvetcarenm.com/>)

Dr. Bradberry distributed a paper, First Aid for Horses. The paper includes a definition of first aid, normal vital signs for horses, and a list of materials for a saddle-pack first aid kit. A copy is attached to these minutes.

Randy Roth talked about emergency contact technology, which can be crucial for those of us who travel in the back country on horses. He noted that this technology, intended to assist in personal rescue, consists of devices that keep track of where people are and that also provide communication channels to rescue resources. There are several types of devices—all of which operate on radio transmissions, satellite communication systems, and combination satellite and cellular systems.

The venerable EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) and its younger cousin, the PLB (personal locator beacon) broadcast a signal that enables rescuers to determine the signal's origin. These devices are intended only for emergency use; they essentially do one thing—they transmit an SOS signal that is accompanied by the GPS coordinates of the device. They do not require a subscription fee nor do they allow two-way communication. EPIRBs are widely used by recreational mariners, whose generally wide-open view of the sky is well suited to this kind of device. The PLB is attractive to hikers. Both EPIRBs and PLBs operate on satellite networks that cover the entire planet, so the chance of a positive response to an SOS signal transmitted from one is very good. Depending on the type and brand, EPIRBs range in price from \$270 to over \$700. A PLB can be had for as little as \$39 or as much as \$400 or more.

The industry also offers satellite tracking/messaging devices (a.k.a. "SEND" devices). These have benefits for horse riders, but like all satellite devices, they require a clear view of the sky; trees and deep canyons can be expected to interfere with a device's ability to transmit and receive a signal to a satellite. The devices require a subscription. These devices do several things: Like the EPIRBs and PLBs, they transmit an SOS signal and GPS Coordinates to a central communications facility from which (in theory) assistance is dispatched. Unlike EPIRBs and PLBs, SEND devices allow a user to transmit and receive text messages in both emergency and non-emergency situations.

Two brands of devices are available: The SPOT Communicator and the DeLorme InReach. Each uses its own satellite network; the characteristics of these networks can make or break your chances of a positive outcome when you activate an SOS. It behooves us all to understand their strengths and limitations.

The U.S. Forest Service uses SPOT Communicators through its own dispatch operations and reports satisfactory performance. A few Gila BCH members have reported persistent communications failures with the SPOT Communicator and at least three members have abandoned the device altogether.

For horse riding there are benefits to the satellite tracking and messaging technology. Randy and a few other Gila BCH members own the DeLorme InReach SE, which sells for between \$270 and \$300. The device requires a subscription; DeLorme offers four subscription plans, ranging in price from \$15 to \$100 a month. The \$25/month plan offers continuous tracking and 40 free text messages per month; the text messages can be received on and replied to from a recipient's cell phone or email account. When the InReach transmits an SOS, it reports back to the device with the time of the SOS transmission and the time the transmission was received at a national dispatch center. The center will dispatch help on the basis of the SOS alone, although the resources dispatched can be better targeted to your specific needs if you also send a text that describes your situation.

When an SOS or non-emergency message is transmitted, InReach reports times of transmission and receipt. During an SOS transmission, InReach sends an SOS signal or text message to a national center, which will dispatch help even if you don't answer a return message.

While we're talking about text messages, be forewarned. GPS users who have fiddled with labeling waypoints during a leisurely and relaxed hike will be familiar with the GPS "keypad" on (at least) both Garmin and DeLorme units. You can therefore imagine how tricky it might be to type even a short message during the stress of an emergency. That said, the Gila BCH members who have used InReach report good results—messages are both sent AND received.

For tracking, InReach marks points at intervals you specify. The device has a rechargeable internal battery, so if that battery fails, remember that you can't simply buy a new one at WalMart—you have to return the device to DeLorme for service. The device can be recharged through a USB battery pack, a solar charger, or its micro USB cable and a USB port on your computer. DeLorme claims a 100-hour battery life, based on transmitting one track point every 10 minutes and a clear view of the sky. Randy advises that you can reduce battery consumption by setting tracking points to longer intervals.

If you're interested in obtaining a satellite beacon or messaging device, REI has an informative web page that can help you make a choice. Visit <http://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/personal-locator-beacons.html>

For specific information about the DeLorme InReach, start by visiting <http://www.inreachdelorme.com/product-info/faq.php>.

Agenda topic Equine Evacuation | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug Dexter reported that his new computer is now in service, which will enable him to finish the call tree (a system through which Gila BCH members can alert one another and share information about local emergencies that require evacuation). Doug added that the call tree underwent a limited test when the Signal Fire broke out last week.

He also commented that Laurie Wlosinski is working on the map that will show where our homes and our equines are located. The map will be useful for determining destinations for evacuating members and will help members render assistance to others.

Although Doug has received permission from Tyrone to use its corrals as a safe haven, he noted that nobody is sure where the corrals are. A member (sorry—the secretary did not catch who this was) stated that the corrals are at the end of Joan Dewpre's pasture; she added that the corrals are not in very good shape, but are suitable for emergency use.

Agenda topic Finance and Membership | Presenter Gerry Engel

Jean Hill, the Gila BCH treasurer, was not present at the meeting, but Gerry Engel distributed her financial report (attached). Gerry noted that the much-discussed insurance payments (see minutes for previous months) are due on June 1. The state BCH office is supposed to send us a bill.

The chapter currently has 59 members.

Agenda topic Publicity | Presenter Mara Miles

Mara Miles mentioned that a brochure describing the activities and services of the Gila BCH chapter would be a useful public relations tool. Gerry Engel commented that the chapter does indeed have a tri-fold brochure, but it needs to be updated. Gerry offered to provide a copy to Mara.

Libby Beck offered to complete the layout in a desktop publishing program so that copies can be run off as needed.

Agenda topic GSCAR | Presenter Laurie Wlosinski

Laurie Wlosinski reported that she is traveling to Estancia soon to participate in the first of this season's search-and-rescue (SAR) trainings. She hopes to meet some people who will be there who conduct sessions on training horses to scent track like dogs do. She will try to persuade them to come to Silver City and put on a show for the Gila BCH and the Grant County SAR's horse-mounted auxiliary.

That group is currently reviewing the Los Angeles SAR protocols for training horses. The group also plans to experiment with packing SAR litters on horses. Finally, they will be conducting a map orientation session using compass only (no GPS).

Laurie wrapped up her report by stating that anybody who's interested in equine search and rescue should feel free to join.

Agenda topic Gila BCH Website | Presenter Cindi deCapiteau

At the upcoming June 2014 Gila BCH meeting, the education segment will consist of a demo of the chapter's web site, which has been online for a few months, the result of Ted Miles' talents and efforts. The demo will show how the site works and what information it contains. We hope to answer questions and receive suggestions for improvement.

Agenda topic Corrections to April 2014 Minutes | Presenter Fran Rawllins (in absentia)

Fran Rawllins sent an email last month offering the following correction to the April minutes: The amount for insurance coverage as discussed at the state BCH meeting is \$1 million. The Gila BCH minutes in April incorrectly reported that coverage is \$5 million

Agenda topic Trail Projects | Presenter Gerry Engel

The chapter has completed work on nearly 40 miles of trail so far this year. Of these, 16 miles are in the wilderness, around Woody's Corral near the Gila Cliff Dwellings. With the exception of the CDT (near Highway 90), the remainder are in or near the Silver Fire. The group has also evaluated the condition of the Middle Fork (of the Gila River) to Jordan Hot Springs.

The condition of the Middle Fork Trail is poor as a result of last year's flooding. It is gone altogether in many places. Travelers have to weave around log piles, but it's possible nevertheless to get through.

One of the trails near the Gila Cliff Dwellings, Thousand Mile Ridge trail, has been cleared to Little Creek, except for a 1-1/2 mile stretch around the Double E Trail. That stretch has downed trees but is passable. Dead trees from the Miller Fire are coming down. The Gila BCH trail crew cleared the Little Bear Trail and the Zigzag Trail to the West Fork (Gila River). The Forest Service has cleared West Fork up about three miles and the trail is in reasonable shape.

In the Burro Mountains, we have cleared the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) from Highway 90 to the road going to Jacks Peak.

Gerry confessed that he has not assembled a trail project schedule, but he said that if any chapter members want to clear trails in the forest, let him know so he can advise the Forest Service. By letting the Forest Service know before we do work we will be covered by our volunteer agreement and Workers Comp.

Recent fires result in trail problems from tree falls and erosion. Gerry plans to do some recon work up Little Creek. He suggested that the trail to Little Spring, McKenna Mesa, and Mogollon Creek are good candidates for clearing, with many more trail miles in those areas that could be addressed in the fall. Little Spring, near the upper end of Little Creek, would serve as a suitable base camp site.

Gerry reported that he is working on two grant proposals, one for Grant County and one for Catron County.

Mike Carr from the wilderness district has asked for work on the CDT off the North Star Mesa Road. This work would have to occur during the last week in May or the first week in June, but Gerry doesn't know if we can swing that because there is no good place to camp. He mused that the trails could possibly be addressed through Rocky Canyon.

Agenda topic Rodeo | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug Dexter announced that the rodeo is coming up soon. He asked if the chapter members want to have a booth during the event.

Doug also commented that the chapter could prepare slides of maps, marked to show where we are working on trails.



First Aid for Horses

Presented by Dr. Britton Bradberry
Advanced Veterinary Care
3801 Pinos Altos Road Silver City, NM
575-388-1503 After Hours: 575-538-1117

First Aid involves stabilizing any injuries with readily available materials until veterinary help can be reached.

Normal Vital Signs for Horses:

Temperature 99-101 F
Heart Rate 36-42 beats per minute
Respiratory Rate 8-12 breaths per minute
Normal mucous membranes (gums) should be pink and moist

Reporting these measurements can provide the receiving veterinarian with a basic idea of what he/she may expect upon arrival of an injured or sick horse.

The following materials should fit easily in a saddle pack:

Human First Aid Kit: gauze sponges, bandages, antibiotic ointment, tape, etc. will be included in a basic first aid kit.

Tools:

Hoof pick
Pliers
Bandage scissors
Thermometer

Topicals/bandaging:

Gloves (latex, nitrile, etc.)
Sterile saline
Eye wash
Povidone Iodine
Vet Wrap
Cotton swabs
Sterile lubricating jelly
Lidocaine gel
Duct tape
Tampons (soak up blood effectively)

Medications :

Banamine – best for colic pain
Phenylbutazone (Bute) – best for orthopedic pain/injuries
Previcox – anti-inflammatory oral tablet

Useful supplies to keep in your trailer or barn

4 inch PVC pipe – cut lengthwise, for splinting
Towels for padding
Replacement "shoe"

As always, safety for yourself and your horse are of the utmost importance. Please use extreme caution while attempting to approach or treat an injured horse.

Gila Chapter BCHA May 14, 2014 Treasurer/Member Report

(note: last bank statement is taken to BCH meetings in case someone needs to see it.)

Bank Balance 3/16/14 \$ 3,326.75

Credits

4/14		\$.37	interest
4/10		<u>\$ 30.00</u>	Byrum membership
	total credits	\$ 30.37	

Debits

3/26	#1251	\$ 100.00	reimburse 1st aid cards to FS
4/7	#1253	<u>\$ 920.00</u>	1st quarter dues state/national
	total debits	\$1,020.00	

Bank Balance 4/15/14 \$ 2,337.12

Transactions Cleared after April 15, 2014:

4/30	#1252	\$ 53.62	reimburse fuel costs to state meeting 3/29
4/16	#1254	\$ 78.00	USPS PO box 1 year

Balance as of May 12 \$ 2,205.50

Expenses coming up:

- 1) 3rd party liability insurance, estimated \$5.-\$6. per member, due June 1 to state.
- 2) Director/Leader insurance, estimated \$103/chapter, not sure when due.

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Membership Update/Email List

Our 2014 membership is now 59 as one new member joined on April 9 at meeting--Dawn Byrum, who recently moved here from Anthony. We have 19 single and 20 family memberships on May 12.

Last year's membership was 64. We have two non-members on email list to coordinate with other BCH chapters, Dan Key & Pat Buls.