

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 5/10/2017 6:00 PM | Meeting location Watts Hall, Room 217

Meeting called by	Doug Dexter	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Joan Bacon, Cathy Brett, Joan Dewbre, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Andrea Imler, Russ Imler, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Maureen McLeod, Cheryl Roth, Randy Roth, Becky Shumway, Nathan Williams, Laurie Wlosinski
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic Call to order | Presenter Doug Dexter

Discussion Doug Dexter called the meeting to order by standing on the desk and leaping into the air on the wings of an angel. The previously rowdy attendees gasped and immediately settled into stunned silence.

Agenda topic Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Doug Dexter

In a tribute to the thoroughness and planning competence of our lionhearted leader, no changes were ordered for this evening's meeting agenda.

Agenda topic Additions or changes to minutes | Presenter Doug Dexter

The secretary suffers from an infirmity characterized by an inability to recall names and faces. If two people have the same first name, they get monikered with an alphabetically ordered last name. For that reason, in the minutes from the last meeting (whenever that was—March 2017?), Joan Dewbre was referred to as Joan Bacon. The secretary shrugs apologetically for this sorry state of affairs, hereby corrected retroactively.

Agenda topic Financial report | Presenter Doug Dexter

See attached report on page 6. The chapter has received 66 registration fee checks for the upcoming 2017 BCHNM rendezvous. Four more checks are presumably in the mail.

Agenda topic Trail-brushing support | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug has corralled some folks who expressed interest in helping the Gila chapter with trail-brushing support. We might have to support them by packing their tools and lunches, which implies a trail ride for somebody with a capable packhorse. Yippee!

Agenda topic Equine Evacuation | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug reported that he has the cellphone numbers for all the text-messaging virtuosos in the chapter. As a result, he intends to put together a list of those numbers to facilitate simultaneous transmission of a single text message. In our geezer-ravaged group, nobody seems to know how to create such a list, so Doug mused that he would make inquiries of his grandson.

Create a text group to receive evacuation text messages. Evaluate feasibility of sharing the list with an alternate bearer of scary news.	Doug Dexter
---	-------------

Agenda topic GCSAR | **Presenter** Laurie Wlosinski

Grant County Search and Rescue conducted a mission a few weeks ago up on the Mimbres River. The mounted units—Gerry Engel, the Imlers, and Rawlings Lemon—participated. The missing person was found deceased.

Agenda topic NMBCB Rendezvous | **Presenter** Mickey Lemon

The Gila Chapter is hosting this year's BCHNM Rendezvous. In connection with the event, Mickey is coordinating a raffle. Each BCHNM chapter invests in a \$50 gift card from a chapter-chosen enterprise, then raffles off tickets for the card at \$5 per ticket. All proceeds are directed to the state BCH organization. Blank tickets have been distributed to all the BCHNM chapters. Mickey reported that Gila chapter doing well. Other chapters are stepping up too. Socorro has gathered \$385.50 in raffle ticket sales, Three Rivers \$120 and \$210 from Pecos. Mickey expects that the take should easily hit \$1000 once the Northwest, Zuni, Santa Fe, and Lower Rio Grande chapters pitch in. The raffle drawing will be held on Saturday evening.

The \$30 registration fee (that each attendee pays for the extreme privilege of receiving the Gila Chapter's hospitality) goes directly to the Gila Chapter to cover our expenses.

The US Forest Service's requirement that Rendezvous horses are to be fed weed-free hay is a major issue, as yet not fully resolved. The Forest Service will provide 15 bales of certified weed-free alfalfa. We don't know for certain, but we assume that the Rendezvous will be expected to pay for this hay—details, such as cost per bale—are to be worked out. In addition, Rawlings Lemon has procured eight bales Hay is a major issue. Forest service will donate 15 bales, of which 11 bales have been spoken for. Rawlings Lemon procured eight bales of compressed alfalfa from Tractor Supply; the Forest Service's alfalfa and the compressed bales will be for sale at the Rendezvous at a cost to be determined.

Since the water supply at the Celebration site's stock trough is usually so icky—and inconvenient for far-flung campsites, the Rendezvous planning committee has decided to stage water troughs at locations throughout the site. Three chapter members have offered up troughs, but more are needed. When the troughs are in place, the Sapillo Fire Department will come in with a water truck to fill them. The troughs will be available for participants who can't bring their own water, although all have been advised to do so.

Social activity and food for the Rendezvous hoard has settled down to these events. Thursday evening will feature a meet-and-greet at which everybody is on his or her own for hearty sustenance, but most will bring appetizers to share. On Friday evening several grills will be set up around the group area so that anybody with a mind to do so can cook up something yummy. The chapter will furnish salads, condiments, and cookies. Donnie Foreman, well-known caterer from Mimbres, will provide the evening meal on Saturday—at no charge to participants as the registration receipts will cover Donnie's costs. Donnie will also cater a breakfast casserole on Sunday, also free of charge to participants. The Gila chapter will furnish coffee, tea, breakfast breads, and fruit for that meal.

The chapter has ordered toilets from good old John Humphreys Enterprises (the only port-a-potty show in town) at a cost of \$475 for the three comfort stations.

The chapter has collected about \$2100 in registration fees. Expenses known so far total about \$1600, so we have around \$500 to cover costs incurred by volunteers (who must provide receipts). Any money left over from the registration fees will be forwarded to the state.

Seventy-one participants have registered, of which 15 are non-riders. We expect at least 57 horses. Four people are from out of state and will entertain themselves.

One of the two BCH banners (you remember them if you participated in or observed the Silver City Fourth of July parade a couple of years ago*) will be posted at the gate at Hwy 35. The other banner will be posted at the registration table, along with the chapter's parade flag and the New Mexico flag.

Campfires will be allowed only in the centrally located group meeting area. We need more wood for this igneous amenity, so if you have some firewood hanging around and you're willing to part with it, please donate it. Rawlings Lemon will bring a chainsaw along and cut up any downed wood that's handy.

Some participants are arriving on Wednesday and might want to ride; we'll have to see what we can do for them if they want guides.

The good Dr. Dale Streams is our veterinarian-on-call and Glen Geesaman will respond to calls for farriery. Vicki Dowd has made arrangements with a trailer guy to render repairs if needed.

Joan Dewbre (really—Joan Dewbre this time) has worked out logistics for the rides, of which six will be offered each day. The rides have been rated according to customary standards of length and difficulty. Sign-up sheets will be available on Thursday. Ride leaders need to advise Joan Dewbre of their departure times and locations.

Mickey presented a sample of the world's most expensive water bottle, one of which will be provided to every registrant (you know, for the \$30 price of participating, they get a water bottle—guffaw!) Mickey commented that extra water bottles are available for purchase at \$5 each.

Mickey noted that she received an email from Dan Key, the esteemed BCHNM president. Dan said he ran into a guy from somewhere who does cowboy poetry and who offered to entertain us for a tip of \$10 per person. Meeting attendees sniffed at this particular overture, since our very own Pat Buls says she is coming with her guitar and extensive library of the outstanding cowboy poetry she has written. Moreover, Linda Lockler will be around on Friday to provide her well-received presentation on backcountry veterinary care. Linda is also a purveyor of excellent cowboy poetry, so the meeting consensus seemed to be dismissive of the opportunity to pay somebody for a poetic spectacle.

A brilliant and durable solution for nametags will be a leather thong from which will be suspended a leather disc, onto which a participant's name and chapter have been printed. The tag will be glamorized by a craft concho to complete the western look.

Dave Imler wondered asked about Linda Locklar's informative booklet on backcountry veterinary care. Linda will take orders for her book.

Mickey closed by acknowledging the cheerful contributions of her Rendezvous committee volunteers.

Agenda topic NATRC Clinic | Presenter Vicki Dowd

Vicki Dowd reminded us that two months ago we discussed conducting a clinic in 2017 to foster more participation from local riders at a future (2018) competitive trail ride. That discussion included Amy Hartel's comment that the Forest Service would normally impose an application fee of \$75 for us to use the Servis Corral area at Ft. Bayard and that we would be required to obtain insurance coverage for the event. We delayed voting on the matter until Vicki could round up costs and provisions of that coverage.

This evening, Vicki noted that NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) encourages clinics to familiarize participants with competitive trail riding. Vicki said that the insurance coverage for a clinic must come through

* The banners decorated the sides of the cart that Fran 'n Stan Rawllins pulled with their ATV and filled with debris deposited by the equines.

NATRC by way of [Equisure Inc](#), which insures both NATRC and the Back Country Horsemen and would cover the clinic with \$1 million of insurance. Vicki advised that because she contacted NATRC early, she found out that in every NATRC region the sponsors of the year's first two clinics receive a premium reimbursement of \$100—so clinic insurance will cost only \$44.

In addition to the cost of insurance, the clinic judge, Jerry Sims, will charge a fee of \$25 per person for a minimum of 13 participants, which Vicki believes is an achievable number.

The proposed date for the clinic is Friday, September 1 (Labor Day weekend). The clinic serves as an orientation that lets people decide if they want to participate in a competitive trail ride. The September 1 date would provide time to get horses in condition trail horses for a NATRC ride to be held in April 2018.

The clinic schedule would unfold as follows: The morning would feature a lecture and demo, followed by a seven-mile trial ride. Jerry Sims will accompany riders and provide comments.

Doug Dexter asked how the clinic would be marketed. Vicki noted that she has spoken with people who participated in the 2017 NAN Ranch ride and found them to be excited about the possibility of a clinic. She also has several horsey friends, as well as Gila Chapter members, who have expressed interest. The clinic can be marketed on Facebook's equine pages and the Gila Chapter's Facebook page. Marketing would therefore incur no financial costs. Moreover, there's no volunteer work involved because participants will provide their own lunch and no housing is required for this one-day event.

Vicki asked for a vote to hold the clinic because she must file paperwork with NATRC and confirm the event with Jerry. A vote was called for, seconded, and passed.

Agenda topic *Future education segments* | **Presenter** *Cheryl Roth*

July's education segment be a presentation on the inReach satellite communication device. The segment will consist of an orientation—what the inReach is and why it's important to have one—along with a demo of the web page that supports the device.

Agenda topic *Trail days report* | **Presenter** *Gerry Engel*

So far as the Continental Divide Trail is concerned, a cookie is not what you might think it is. At the Trail Days festival in Silver City last month, Forest Service and Gila Chapter personnel were on hand to demonstrate the use of the crosscut saw—and to give festival attendees a chance to work with one. The Forest Service set up a cutting station, provided logs, and a propane-fueled system to heat up a branding iron from the Continental Divide Trail Coalition. Festival attendees cut slices from logs. The slices, known as "cookies," received a CDT brand administered by Donna Tillmann, who smelled like a campfire by the end of the day. Donna branded 100 cookies that day.

The mucketymucks who throw Western NM University's annual new-student orientation shindig have asked the Gila Chapter if we can set this up for orientation week during the third week in August. The Gila Chapter's secretary did not note in her draft minutes whether we're going to do this or not and her memory does not serve to provide an answer.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

Schedule and coordinate crosscut saw demonstration and CDT branding for WNMU orientation week

Doug Dexter

End of July

Agenda topic *Gila BCH Vice President* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

The Gila Chapter's Vice President, the charismatic Susan Austin, is moving away from Silver City in June. You know what that means—we need a volunteer VP to serve until elections in November. Send an email to Doug expressing your interest in filling this temporary position.

(Note: The secretary seems to remember that somebody volunteered on the spot to take on this awesome responsibility, but she can't remember if that really happened—and if it did, who the volunteer is.)

Agenda topic *Rodeo parking assistance* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

It's not clear how GBCH members, competent in the safe use of chainsaws and leaving no trace, qualify as parking attendants, but there it is. The Southwest Horsemen's Association (SWHA) proudly holds a professional rodeo every year. The event is enthusiastically attended by area residents, who flock to the rodeo arena and fill its commodious parking areas with every variety of pickup trucks. The SWHA gives \$400 to the Gila Chapter to stand out on the road in yellow or orange safety vests, wave flags, point, and direct rodeo attendees to park in an orderly fashion. This year's rodeo begins on May 31 and runs through June 3.

Gerry Engel wryly observed that a trail project has been scheduled for that weekend, but since clearing deadwood generates no filthy lucre and directing parking at the rodeo does, the trail project will be rescheduled.

Send an email to Doug if you want to be a part of this activity. You'll commit yourself to a two-hour gig every night, but you get to watch the rodeo for free.

Agenda topic *Announcements*

The chapter's Fearless Leader will be out of town on the date of our next meeting. Doug suggested therefore that we cancel the June meeting. Nobody seemed to have a problem with that.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the next meeting on July 12, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Bank Balance March 1 **\$ 7,205.25**

Deposits	\$ 620.41	interest, March 50/50, 2 memberships, \$540 Rendezvous
Withdrawals	\$ 718.69	payment for 300 water bottles

Bank Balance March 31/April 1st **\$ 7,106.97**

Deposits	\$ 470.78	interest, 2 F memberships, \$390 Rendezvous
Withdrawals	\$ 1,082.00	1 st Qtr dues \$996, usps \$86/year

Bank Balance April 31 **\$ 6,495.75**

transactions after bank statement:

deposits	5/1	\$ 40	sale water bottles & xchg check for raffle
	5/1	\$ 270	Rendezvous
	5/1	\$ 420	Rendezvous
withdrawals	5/2	\$ 49.44	state meeting gas reimbursement
	5/3	\$ 20.	bchnm for raffle tickets xchg

Bank Balance **May 3** **\$7,156.31**

2017 membership We paid \$20 dues for each of our 19 single memberships and \$28 dues each for our 22 Family memberships for first quarter dues, total of \$996. which was mailed April 1st. We got two more Family memberships during April for total member count of 69 on May 3.

Rendezvous – as of May 7 Jean had 64 paid applications, 2 pending, expecting about 3 more in mail.