

**GILA CHAPTER OF BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
MEETING NOTES FOR AUGUST 12, 2015**

The meeting was held at the conference room at the Gila Regional Medical Center.

Members in attendance were: Doug & Dixie Dexter, Jean Hill, Gerry Engel, Rawlings Lemon, Cheryl Roth, Victoria Chick, Mike Dowd, , Ilene Wignall, Russ, Dave, Andrea & Nancy Imler, Pat Wolfe, Sharon Brown, Stan & Fran Rawllins, Karla & Mark Watson, Joan Dewbre, Laurie Wlosinski, Joan Bacon, Louise Cash, Dawn Byrum, .

The Business Meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Dexter at 6 PM.

New members in attendance included: Ann McLean who resides part of the year in the Burros and rides her Pasafino, and Wendel Hann who is a returning member, residing in Gila and tending a heard of horses and mules. WELCOME..

There were no adds or changes to the Agenda. Dexter asked if the entire membership would like to receive the Agenda prior to each meeting and the majority said they would, so it will be.

The minutes for the July 12th meeting were approved as Cindi was not in attendance to defend any errors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Education:** No Education segment was scheduled for this meeting
2. **Publicity:** Ted and Mara Miles were not in attendance. Doug is to follow up with the Sun-News reporter to explore possible subjects for a BCH article by Shannon Seyler.
3. **Public Service/Communications:** Gerry reported that about 55 miles of trails have been cleared this year and that no work is currently scheduled.
4. **Financial / Membership Report:** Jean Hill provided the stats (See attached)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Equine Evacuation** – Dexter provided maps prepared by our good friend Marc Lesvesque and SAR coordinator Laurie W showing our members equine homes, and a notation showing what (at the time of preparation) number of equines that could be accommodated on a short term basis in the event of an evacuation emergency. This data will be updated based on Aug 2015 memberships an data input. Quarterly updates are the goal as the information remains fluid with Chapter additions and changes.
Action: Dexter to update maps and spreadsheet for revision and later distribution to all members.
2. **GCMSAR** – two successful operations in the spring, nothing since and no planned training.
Action: Laurie W to follow up.
3. **Adopt-a- highway** - Next date will be in September. Date and time to assemble at Wind Canyon Fire Station TBD
Action: Cindi to advise
4. NATRC update: Vicki advised that her call for volunteers resulted in 20 members stepping up to help. Vicki displayed a chart of Volunteer requirements and those filled. More signups took place at the meeting. The goal is to enlist sufficient volunteers to support an event with 60 rider participants.
Action: Vicki called a subcommittee planning meeting for Wednesday 8/19 at 10:00 AM
5. BCH NM – State Rendezvous. The Gila Chapter will be represented by Louise Cash and Bob Shelly.
Action: Doug to contact the State coordinator to obtain requirements the Chapter is to provide for the event and advise Louise

NEW BUSINESS:

1. State BCH meeting report: Stan and Fran provided an update on the pending dues increase proposed by the State to cover expenses such as the National representative trips and other State needs not presently being met with current Chapter dues. A yes/no vote on a State dues increase of \$10 individual/\$15 family was requested by the State. Currently 3 of 5 chapters voted yes, with Gila and one other pending. After much spirited discussion a vote was called for 'to vote no on a chapter dues increase, but a yes to provide the equivalent funds to the State if required', a vote of 19 of 26 attendees favored this approach. **Action:** This option will require the Chapter to conduct some form of fund raising to provide the approximate \$500 equivalent amount to a dues add on. **Action:** Vicki and committee to continue to pursue a successful NATRC event with BCH as the sponsor. Gerry to follow up on possible Freeport grant through BCHA 501c3 status.
2. USFS forest plan meeting report: Gerry E reviewed the highlights of a public meeting (attended by some 70 community members) held to get public input relating to changes to the Forest Plan, a long term project to manage the Forest for the benefit of all participating parties.
3. Sun-News – BCH article. See Publicity above.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The meeting was adjourned to meet Wednesday, September 9th, 2015 at 6 PM at the Gila Regional Medical Center conference room.

Submitted by Dixie Dexter (Cindi being in absentia having equine fun)