

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date 2/12/14, 6:00 p.m. | Meeting location Gila Regional Medical Center

Meeting called by	Doug Dexter	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Susan Austin, Cathy Brett, Sharon Brown, Cindi deCapiteau, Joan Dewbre, Gerry Engel, Meyoni Geougé, Jean Hill, Jodie Knight, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Michelle McGorkey, Mara Miles, Ted Miles, Jay Miller, Jene Moseley, Colleen Poole, Ken Poole, Fran Rawllins, Stan Rawllins, Doretta Thompson, Donna Tillmann, Nathan Williams, Laurie Wlosinski
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic Finance | Presenter Jean Hill

Discussion Jean presented the current financial report (attached). The dollars are looking good, but Jean noted that state and national BCH dues are coming up, which will reduce the balance by around \$1400.

Agenda topic Publicity | Presenter Ted and Mara Miles

Discussion The outdated link and leadership information for the Gila BCH chapter have been updated on the state BCH website (see linking page at <http://www.bchnm.org/gila-chapter.html>). The state website is undergoing redevelopment and is not quite finished. Some of us think the new format looks good, although others don't care for it.

Mara Miles suggested that the chapter's ongoing effort to prepare for events that require evacuation is a good opportunity for publication, especially with horse owners who are not BCH members (but could be). She mused that an article in *Desert Exposure* is a place to start.

Somebody observed that the chapter needs to decide whether to include the broader community in our evacuation procedures; the consensus was that the chapter should develop an approach with which we are comfortable and then see where it goes from there. Doug Dexter asked the group to consider what repercussions could occur from advertising the chapter's evacuation plans. The group agreed that, at least, involving the community in the effort would provide good public relations and a favorable image for the BCH.

Doug announced that WNMU is hosting an emergency-planning symposium (in which Doug will participate) and perhaps both evacuation and publicity could dovetail on that. He mentioned further that he's participating on the Grant County emergency planning committee and plans to share the evacuation committee's document with the Grant County group.

Based on his interaction with the firefighters group over Faywood way, Stan Rawllins observed that this year's fire season is likely to be active (and dangerous).

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Meeting of Gila Chapter's evacuation committee	Doug Dexter	2/20/14
<i>Desert Exposure</i> article on BCH efforts for evacuation planning	Mara Miles	Unspecified

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Reporting and follow-up to emergency planning symposium and activities of the Grant County Emergency Planning Committee	Doug Dexter	3/12/14

Agenda topic *Public Service/Communications* | **Presenter** *Gerry Engel*

Discussion Gerry Engle reported that, as a follow up to January’s presentations by Forest Service staff (concerning the chapter’s response to damage from last year’s wildfires and subsequent monsoon flooding), he met this day with USFS personnel. The group discussed activities and locations in which the chapter’s efforts can best be applied. The following evolved from the discussion:

1. Build cairns along the middle and west forks of the Gila River; desired route will need to be marked by the Forest Service.
2. Develop the chapter’s volunteer agreement with the Forest Service.
3. Conduct chainsaw/crosscut saw certification training.
4. Draft plan of action for 2014.

Doug Dexter observed that the Grant County Trails Association is on board to propose Silver City as a sponsor for the Continental Divide Trail Wounded Warrior Hike. The hike, which begins in Mexico in April, is expected to arrive in Silver City on April 26 (see <http://warriorhike.com/schedules/2014-cdt-schedule/> for the complete schedule). Housing and other resources that the chapter might be able to provide are likely to be needed; Doug will keep an eye on this.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Draft plan of activities to support USFS for 2014	Gerry Engel	Unspecified
Identify and organize resources for Wounded Warrior Hike	Doug Dexter	3/12/14

Agenda topic *BCH New Mexico Meeting* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter/Gerry Engel*

Discussion Doug Dexter and Gerry Engel reported on the statewide BCH business meeting, held in February. As promised, the two followed up on the matter of a pending dues increase of (now) \$11 per member. The increase comes in response to the state BCH’s endeavor to provide third-party liability insurance for its officers. The increase is not optional—the insurance is a done deal—and will cost the Gila chapter an estimated additional \$385 in state dues. BCH policies allow chapters to set their own dues, so the obligation can most easily be met by increasing chapter dues by \$11 for each member. (A previous proposal, discussed at the January chapter meeting, was to charge chapters for the insurance at the rate of \$11 per *membership*—family or individual—but that approach seems to have been discarded in favor of the simpler, but more expensive, per *member* charge.)

Motion made and seconded to have the assessment paid—at least for 2014—from the chapter treasury. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Other matters brought up at the state meeting included

- The National Wilderness Conference to be held in Albuquerque in October 2014. The state BCH will man a booth there (<http://www.wilderness50th.org/conference.php>).
- The controversial proposal to establish a multi-area national monument centered around the Organ Mountains. President Obama has said he will act on the matter if Congress doesn’t.
- A list of trails for each BCH chapter was distributed. The list includes information about the trails’ status, use, type, and whether they are maintained (or not).

Regarding the trail list, Gerry made several comments. First, the Forest Service has trail maintenance standards, but most trails in the Gila region aren't kept up to use-by-horse standard. A lawsuit brought by the National BCH stipulated that each BCH chapter review its relevant classifications and require the Forest Service to change them as appropriate. The Gila chapter needs to comply with that order, but Gerry also mused that our trails are substandard anyway. Hiking trails are less developed than horse trails, he commented, but who cares since they're all shabby? Our trails, for example, have few pullout areas, which are necessary to let hikers and equestrians pass each other on narrow pathways. Trails are not kept sufficiently clear of brush and logs.

Gerry mentioned that some attempts are underway to exclude horses from trails—to at least segregate horses from certain areas—but that is not a concern in the Gila region. There is also some effort to decommission trails, raising the question that once extinguished, can a trail be restored? Gerry's sense is that if a trail is put out of service, it never comes back because restoring it demands archeological and environmental clearances. Gerry observed that he's not sure what the classification scheme implies anyway, but in any case, trails in the Gila region are unlikely to be brought up to the standard the scheme requires. The matter is a potential problem for the Forest Service, however, which has liability for potential injuries or death that can be traced back to faulty trails. The trails are mapped, implying to the public that they are safe for our use, but the implication is deceiving when the trails are not maintained.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Discussion and decision about dues increase of \$11 per member for 2015	Unspecified	Unspecified

Agenda topic Adopt-a-Highway | Presenter Cindi deCapiteau

Discussion The next roadside trash detail will occur on Thursday, March 20. Participants will meet as usual at the Wind Canyon Fire Station, intersection of Hwy 180 and the Truck Bypass Road west of Silver City. Assembly time is 9:00 a.m.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Email announcement/reminder of trash detail	Cindi deCapiteau	3/13/14

Agenda topic Medevac Insurance | Presenter Gerry Engel

Discussion For several months, the chapter has been mulling over insurance to help defray the costs of a helicopter evacuation for somebody injured (heaven forefend) while working or playing in the Gila region's forests and wilderness areas. Gerry Engel contributed the latest information based on his exploration of the matter. He advised that if one of us needs evacuation by helicopter (a.k.a. medevac), the cost will be \$10,000 for a rescue that requires three hours' flying time (to the scene, from the scene to transfer of care at the nearest appropriate medical facility).

The insurance he's investigated, provided by an outfit called LifeShield Alliance (<https://lifeshieldalliance.com/>), offers a pretty good deal in light of the breathtaking cost of this service. For \$49.95 a year for individual coverage, or \$59.95 a year for family coverage, this fixed indemnity policy will pay out \$10,000 for each three-hour period of an air ambulance medical transport. The benefit is paid directly to the policyholder, who is then responsible for paying the service provider. LifeShield offers national coverage, which means that coverage is provided no matter where a policyholder is when a rescue is needed. (Most medevac policies, it seems, offer only regional coverage and if a policyholder is outside the covered region, the policies might not pay.)

Nathan Williams commented that Blue Cross assesses a premium of \$150 to cover a \$42,000 medevac bill. Many personal health insurance policies also offer medevac coverage as does Medicare.

Agenda topic *Education* | Presenter *Meyoni Geougé*

Discussion Meyoni Geougé has volunteered to assume responsibility for the chapter's education program. She has lived in Grant County and been involved with horses for nearly 20 years. She outlined a set of topics to be presented at the chapter's monthly meetings or in workshops outside the meetings, such as the following:

- ▣ How does a bit work?
- ▣ Exploring how it feels to be a horse.
- ▣ One's most outrageous event with a horse, presented from the horse's perspective.
- ▣ First aid and back country emergencies.
- ▣ Colic, diarrhea, predators, food, water, what to expect from a shrinking wildlife habitat.
- ▣ Burns, gashes.
- ▣ Making contact if you get lost.
- ▣ Plants, bugs, reptiles.
- ▣ Saddles and saddle fit.
- ▣ Hands-on packing.
- ▣ Trailer loading with a tack exchange.

Meyoni invited the chapter members to suggest additional topics and presentation techniques.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
March education segment: Bits—bring your tack	Meyoni Geougé	4/12/14

The meeting adjourned around 7:45 p.m.

Bank Balance 12/16/13 \$ 3,056.77

Credits

1/15/14	+\$.39	interest paid
1/8/14	+\$	40.00	Lewis membership
1/10/14	+\$	<u>30.00</u>	Austin membership
total credits		\$ 70.39	

Debits #1248	1/7/14	- \$	17.41	reimb ML ham
#1249	12/30/13	- \$	<u>18.01</u>	reimb DD turkey
total debits		\$	35.42	

Bank Balance 1/15/14 \$ 3,091.74

Transactions After January 15, 2014:

deposit 1/17/14	+\$	30.00	D Thompson membership
1/17/14	+\$	30.00	Meyoni membership
deposit 1/24/14	+\$	40.00	Streams family membership
1/24/14	+\$	<u>30.00</u>	S Brown membership
2/4/14	+4	30.00	donation, JM
Today's Balance		\$ 3,251.74	

Membership Update/Email List

Our 2014 membership is now 52. Last year's membership was 64. We had 16 single and 18 family memberships before meeting on February 12.

Dues payable to State are \$5. for single memberships and \$10 for family memberships.

Dues payable to National are \$15 for singles, and \$18 for families.

Of our \$30 dues for singles, we pay \$20 to state/national and keep \$10 for our chapter.

Of our \$40 dues for families, we pay \$28 to state/national and keep \$12 for our chapter.