

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 1/10/2018 12:00 AM | Meeting location WNMU Watts Hall

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Joan Bacon, Cathy Brett, Donna Cinti, Cindi deCapiteau, Joan Dewbre, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Betsy Holdsworth, Sam Holdsworth, Andrea Imler, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Ann McLean, Charlen Perez, Cheryl Roth, Randy Roth, Becky Shumway, Stephanie Stone, Donna Tillmann, Nathan Williams, Pat Wolph

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic *Recognize guests and new members* | **Presenter** Doug Dexter

Discussion Welcome to Betsy and Sam Holdsworth, who live up on the Gila River east fork near the Grapevine Campground. Proud owners of one or more mules. New member Charlen Perez joined us this evening. Charlen has volunteered to serve as ride secretary for the upcoming NATRC¹ competitive trail ride at NAN Ranch (April 20-22, 2018).

Agenda topic *Additions or changes to agenda* | **Presenter** Doug Dexter

Motion made to accept minutes from November 2017 as submitted. Seconded. Passed on voice vote.

Agenda topic *Financial and membership report* | **Presenter** Nancy Imler

Bank balance of \$7,424.61 as of December 31. The chapter has 14 single memberships, 18 family memberships @ two people per family, for a total of 50 members so far for 2018. More members expected from renewals in the coming weeks.

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

Amy Hartel of the USFS has informed Gerry that the Gila area USFS has an agreement with an Arizona group to work on Gila trails. The group has until December 31, 2018 to complete its work. Gerry will find out what trails this group is working on so that the Gila BCH chapter doesn't cross paths with them.

Gerry also notes that Brian Martinez says the Black Range Ranger District still has money from the Southwest NM Resource Allocation Committee to work on the Crest Trail and in Railroad Canyon.

Agenda topic *Seeds* | **Presenter** Becky Shumway

Becky, armed with a box of goodies, reported that Silke Schneider's husband, Richard Felger, sparked Becky's interest in vegetation. That interest led Becky to contact native seed distributors Curtis & Curtis Seeds and Bamert

¹ North American Trail Ride Conference

Seeds. These enterprises produce beautiful catalogs that describe their seed offerings and specialties in landscape restoration with native plants. Becky pulled from her box catalogs, ball caps, and manicure kits provided by the companies and distributed the treasures to members present. Curtis & Curtis, Becky noted, is affiliated with Country Girls Nursery, a Silver City establishment.

Agenda topic *Medevac* | **Presenter** *Nathan Williams*

Nathan was tasked a couple of months ago to follow up on the recurring matter of insurance to cover the nasty expense of medical evacuation, usually by helicopter, for anybody sufficiently unfortunate to need it while riding in the wild green yonder. Nathan's investigation was initiated by a plea from a BCHNM chapter a while back to attract enrollees in a medevac startup so the chapter could qualify for premium discounts. Nathan notes that in the Gila Region, we already have medevac service from Native air, which has more extensive service coverage than the start-up outfit, whose coverage isn't so hot. The Air Methods Corporation, of which Native Air is a part, offers medevac insurance at (current) annual rates of \$80/family and \$50/individual. Air Methods offers a discount if an organization can enroll 10 people (who don't have to be part of the organization).

Balance billing, the practice of a healthcare provider billing a patient for the difference between what the patient's health insurance chooses to reimburse and what the provider chooses to charge, is sometimes an issue in medevac coverage. Most health insurance policies offer some coverage for medical evacuation; but since medevac tends to be costly, with charges in the tens of thousands of dollars, health insurance sometimes doesn't cover the entire bill. If a medevac operator's costs for an emergency call isn't fully covered by the patient's health insurance, and if the operator practices balance billing, the patient can be billed for the unpaid balance. Nathan advised that Air Methods does not practice balance billing, so if one signs up for their coverage, and medevac is covered under one's regular health insurance, Air Methods will not require further payment, even if its costs are not fully reimbursed.

Nathan also noted that Grant County and the Gila Regional Medical Center have a backup helicopter and crew based at Grant County Airport.

Those of us equipped with Garmin's inReach satellite communication device can also take advantage of medevac services offered through GEOS² search and rescue and medivac coverage. SAR coverage costs (currently) \$17.95 a year. Medevac coverage is \$129.95 per year through inReach. The costs for these coverages are in addition to the costs of Garmin's inReach service plans.

Agenda topic *Horses and Heroes* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

Horses and Heroes is a treatment program for US military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. The program came through Silver City last year in a project to condition mustangs for use by veterans, who take over the horses and work with outfitters and other horsey undertakings. One of the principals of Horses and Heroes, Russ Lewis, wants to teach a packing class in Silver City and needs recommendations for trails. Doug will follow up.

Action items

Person responsible

Follow up with Russ Lewis with trail recommendations for a packing class.

Doug Dexter

² GEOS isn't an acronym. The name is derived from the ancient Greek "geos", which means "World" and is the brand name of the travel safety group behind inReach's international emergency call center.

Agenda topic *Display at the Library* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

The Gila chapter has agreed to take over a display case or two at the Silver City Library. Cindi deCapiteau has photographs of the chapter's trail work, but doesn't know what to do with them in this context. Doug suggested that we could develop a slide show and run it on a laptop to be locked into the display case. We can also fill the case with tools, of which Gerry has plenty.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Coordinate effort to load the display case	Cindi deCapiteau	February 1, 2018
Dig up tools that will fit in the display case	Gerry Engel	February 1, 2018
Get a laptop on which to run a slideshow	Doug Dexter	February 1, 2018

Agenda topic *NAN Ranch Ride* | Presenter *Vicki Dowd*

NATRC has approved the chapter's sanction application for the April 2018 competitive trail ride at NAN Ranch. The ride judges and awards are in place. The trails have been (mostly) GPS'd and we are ready to start marking the main intersections. The trails for the 2018 ride run along two-track roads and in sandy drainages and so are easy to follow without extensive marking.

Food has been lined up for a dinner for competitors and volunteers, but a coordinator and volunteers are still needed to arrange breakfasts and lunch fixings for volunteers.

Articles about the ride will appear in the March 2018 issue of Zia magazine and a soon-to-be-published issue of Horsing Around magazine.

The Gila chapter will be represented at NATRC's national conference in Albuquerque, February 9-11.

Agenda topic *BCHNM* | Presenter *Mickey Lemon*

Nothing much going on. Allen Olson, Lands Chair for BCHNM, wants each New Mexico chapter to appoint a lands chair to keep track of local matters concerning public lands. Gerry will do that for the Gila chapter.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Keep track of public lands matters and report to Cindi deCapiteau and Allen Olson	Gerry Engel	At least monthly

Agenda topic *One Million Bones Project* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

The One Million Bones project (described in more detail in the November 2017 GBCH minutes) is ongoing at Bear Mountain Lodge. Ceramic bones have been delivered in boxes weighing about 17 lbs. each and stacked about 4' high on 57 pallets behind the Lodge. The boxes need to be carted up the mountain to their final resting place. Cindi deCapiteau, Gerry Engel, Rawlings Lemon, Cheryl Roth, and Teresa Smergut have made several pack trips for this purpose, but the job is far from complete. Gerry is organizing work projects to get this done, beginning early in February. The work needs to be completed by March. Pack animals, packing gear, and saddle horses are needed, along with people to remain on the ground and serve as loaders and unloaders. At least two people at the pallets to load and two more people at the boneyard to unload would make the work go fast. Consider signing up when Gerry announces dates. The idea is two people at the pallets load three bone boxes into panniers and lift the panniers onto pack horses. Each pannier weighs around 50 lbs. At the bone yard, two people unload panniers from the pack horses, unload the boxes from the panniers, and reattach the empty panniers to the pack horses, who then mosey down the mountain for another load.

According to somebody, John at the Lodge said he could recruit loaders. Doug said he would reach out to community groups for volunteer loaders.

If somebody wants to make a multi-day effort on behalf of bones, Bear Mtn. Lodge welcomes campers and will allow participants to store their horses in the Lodge's corrals.

Note that packing isn't the only way to get bones up the mountain. A 17-lb box of bones fits nicely into a backpack for those who would rather hike. Note also that anybody who wants to haul bones can go to Bear Mtn. Lodge at any time and have at it.

Parking for rigs is available near the barn behind the lodge or out on the road in front of the lodge.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Organize work projects to pack bones	Gerry Engel	February 2018
Follow up with John re: loaders/unloaders	Doug Dexter	February 2018

Agenda topic Fun Rides | Presenter Gerry Engel

Gerry advises that he received an email from the adopter of the Continental Divide Trail segment between Sapillo campground and Aztec Park. The trail is always a good ride, but even more so now that rocks have been moved out of the way, apparently by Vicki Dowd, who likes to move rocks.

Agenda topic Future Education Segment | Presenter Cheryl Roth

Cheryl will set something up with Linda Brewer (Bear Mtn. Lodge) to review Linda's slide show about a trip she made to Mongolia. The education segment might lend itself for presentation at the Lodge. Doug said he can procure a projector.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Schedule Mongolia education segment and determine resources needed.	Cheryl Roth	Any time

Agenda topic Silver City Trail Days | Presenter Doug Dexter

Last year the Gila chapter indulged the community with a cross-cut saw demonstration, which produced the infamous "cookies," sections of logs that get branded with the CDT logo. Seems like a good idea to do this again in April (but watch out for conflict with NAN Ranch Ride). Doug will follow up to arrange for logs, charcoal, the branding irons, and other resources needed for this event. Exact date unknown at the moment.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Organize Trail Days cross-cut saw/cookie demo	Doug Dexter	Beforehand