

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 9/13/2017 6:00 PM | Meeting location WNMU Watts Hall

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Cathy Brett, Donna Cinti, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Jean Hill, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Mickey Lemon, Ann McLean, Maureen McLeod, Sharon Norris, Cheryl Roth, Randy Roth, Becky Shumway, Donna Tillmann, Nat Williams

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic *Call to order* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

Doug called the meeting to order by withdrawing from his pocket a disposable lighter and a cherry bomb. Although these materials are traditionally used to blow up toilets in high school restrooms, they proved unequivocally effective at drawing the audience's attention to the matters at hand.

Action items

Person responsible

Replenish stock of cherry bombs

Doug Dexter

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

Doug cheerfully introduced the evening's speaker, Ann McLean, as well as Kristin Munson, a guest whose name does not appear on the sign-in sheet and to whom the secretary makes sincere apologies if she got the name wrong. Kristin has two horses, one of which is a Rocky Mountain Horse and one or both of which drive in harness. Doug also introduced Sherry Norris, who moved to Silver City from Santa Fe. Sherry just now got a horse, Billy, from Jeanette Hamilton. Sharon noted that she lives in Arenas Valley and is crazy about trail riding. Welcome, ladies.

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

Tonight's agenda is fully fleshed out and nobody recommended any additions or changes. The minutes from our August meeting, however, underwent a post-publication change, which served to clarify for banking purposes the procedure by which Nancy Imler will assume the role of the chapter's treasurer. The minutes were adopted as revised; the revised version has been posted on the chapter website.

Agenda topic *Financial report* | Presenter *Jean Hill*

At the end of August, the chapter had a bank balance of \$6,389.80. From this tidy sum, Jean extracted almost \$500 samoleons—more money for insurance because the amount already paid was based incorrect information, and a payment to NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) to pay for the clinic we sponsored at the first of September (more on the clinic later). Clinic proceeds produced a \$10 profit for the chapter. As of today, GBCH has a bank balance of \$5900.

Agenda topic Membership | Presenter Jean Hill

Let fly a robust cheer for the Gila chapter, whose membership now consists of 70 (seventy) souls.

Agenda topic Driving in Harness | Presenter Ann McLean

Ann McLean, a resident of Arenas Valley, discussed driving with horse. Driving, as you probably know, involves hitching a horse to a cart and having lots of fun traveling the old-fashioned way. Ann explained her thorough training and experience in driving matters, as well as the various kinds of driving and driving events in which the so-inclined can compete. A horse and driver can participate in games, shows, parades, competitions involving hazards and rules, and 1-day and 3-day eventing. Grant County presents at least two driving venues—Redrock and Ft. Bayard. Ann herself is developing a driving course on her property.

Ann noted that ground driving begins the training process and passed around photographs depicting various driving scenes. She discussed harnesses, bridles, bits, and carts and showed photographs of her own equipment.

She showed videos in which she hitched her mare up to the cart. In a second video, Ann drove around the Ft. Bayard parade ground, demonstrating how the horse travels before the cart on a paved surface. A third video clip showed the horse pulling the cart over a sandy and slightly lumpy path out in the Ft. Bayard wilds near the golf course. Ann's final clip illustrated how she loads her cart into the bed of her pickup truck, using ramps and a remote-controlled winch.

Ann is enthusiastic about driving, particularly for the creaky among us for whom riding is getting, er, dodgy. She's interested in providing instruction and gatherings in which drivers can show off their stuff.

Agenda topic Equine Evacuation, call tree | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug mentioned the test of the call tree text system he conducted earlier this year. The success of that test gave him sufficient confidence to try it again tonight, now that new members have been incorporated into his list of phone numbers. Doug conducted another test at the meeting tonight and instructed us to let him know if we got the message. An equally valid response is to let him know if we DIDN'T get the message, to which the secretary can reply that she did not get the message.

In an unrelated but equally important item, Doug noted that the Continental Divide Trail off Little Walnut, just past Bear Mountain, is a nice ride and you can get clear out to the Arrastra site. A couple of gates cross the trail, but they are easy to open. Nat Williams commented that there's only one downed tree over the trail. Riders can access the trail from the trail head at the Little Walnut picnic area and also from the Gomez Peak trailhead.

Agenda topic NATRC Clinic Report | Presenter Vicki Dowd

Vicki reported on the NATRC Clinic she arranged, which occurred on September 1. Participation in the clinic was limited to 20—and the final number was 19, which consisted of 15 riders and four auditors. The clinician, Jerry Sims, was pleased with the event. Jerry and his wife stayed at the Roth ranch and has now allowed as how Cheryl and Randy are the greatest people ever. Cheryl treated them to a ride on the Dragonfly trail in Ft. Bayard and, like us all, they loved it.

The clinic attracted eight people who are not BCH members, but who are now interested in joining our ranks. Vicki will send them a questionnaire to assess their interest in a competitive trail ride next spring (in April), should the chapter decide to put one on.

Regarding the looming decision about the proposed ride, Gerry Engel asked if the September clinic would result in more involvement by local people to put on the ride. Vicki replied that these people don't want to sponsor or conduct the ride; rather, they want to compete. Vicki believes we have enough local people for the April ride and

noted that she would get seven more people who are enthusiastic about competitive trail riding. She has received inquiries from Colorado, which indicates our 2016 ride received considerable positive press.

Vicki also noted that something we need to realize is that the 2016 ride involved a lot of intensive work to produce activities that are not required by NATRC; scaling back meals (for example) would simplify a future ride. Communication challenges that characterized the 2016 trails will not be a problem; she is planning to use trails on the northeast side of the ranch, where cell service is good. For that reason, any contact with emergency services that might be needed will be easy to achieve and there will be no need for search and rescue people. We would need only the required safety riders.

Doug Dexter will prepare a message to the GBCH membership asking for approval for the April 2018 ride.

Action items**Person responsible**

Message to GBCH members about April 2018 NAN Ranch ride

Doug Dexter

Agenda topic *BCHNM Website* | **Presenter** *Cindi deCapiteau*

The state BCH website has been revised and is up and running. Check it out at <http://www.bchnm.org/home.html>.

Agenda topic *BCHNM State Bylaws vote* | **Presenter** *Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon*

In other news from BCHNM, the organization's bylaws have been revised. Doug sent out an email message with the revised documents, in which changes were colored red. Doug requested a motion to adopt the bylaws as changed. Becky Shumway so moved; several people seconded her motion. The motion was adopted by voice vote.

Agenda topic *Date for highway cleanup* | **Presenter** *Cindi deCapiteau*

Our stretch of highway 180 west of Silver City will receive a picking and scrubbing on September 20. Meet at the fire station on the Truck Bypass Road at 9:00 a.m. Cindi will prepare an email containing details.

Action items**Person responsible**

Message to GBCH members September 20 highway cleanup.

Cindi deCapiteau

Agenda topic *Fun Rides*

The Imlers have been working to clear trail 181 (Holt Apache Trail) (a.k.a. Sheridan Gulch) (a.k.a. Sheridan Canyon). This trail is accessed from US 180 on the steep and rugged Sheridan Corral Road (a.k.a. C054) in Catron County, about 16 miles northwest of Buckhorn (see map on page 6). The area was affected by the Whitewater-Baldy complex fire in 2012.

Dave Imler reported that the trail is steep. It climbs 3500' in four miles, so plan to rest your horse periodically if it's not in shape. The Imlers have cleared from the trailhead to Holt Spring. The USFS trail crew said they have worked all the way up to Tennessee Meadows. The terrain offers lots of riding, but there's no loop. Parking is a problem for multiple trailers. If you drive to the trailhead, there's room for two trailers, but the parking area is tight and steep and recommended for the courageous and experienced. About a half-mile from the trailhead is a parking area adjacent to Sheridan tank. That area is level and easier to get in and out.

The trail itself is comfortably wide, except on switchbacks. The path has been brushed and the tread has been restored since the fire. The distance to the switchbacks, which provide a good place to turn around, is about 2-1/2 miles. As the Imlers were working on the trail, they saw bear scat and captured images of bears on Russ's game camera.

Another ride option is provided by an outfitter between Reserve and Snow Lake. The N Bar Ranch rents out an entire cabin, cook tent, and all equipment for \$2500, which provides a week of riding for 12 people. If you go, you bring your own horse, your own food. You do your own cooking, but you rest in a soft bed with a bathroom and showers in a beautiful place. The best time to go is in the spring when the elk are calving. You need to make reservations early for a particular week. Bookings open at the first of October. Visit the website at <http://nbarranch.com/> for more information. Contact Dave directly if you're interested in booking a week.

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

Our October meeting will be held at End of the Road Ranch. As always, the meeting will start at 6:00 p.m. Bring a lawn chair. The ranch will do a presentation for us. The ranch is located at the absolute end of Mountain View Road, which is squeezed in off 180 eastbound between the hotels across 180 from McDonalds. See the map on page 7.

Agenda topic *BCH Christmas Party* | **Presenter** *Cindi deCapiteau, Vicki Dowd*

Laurie Wlosinski will be collecting items for the Christmas party's silent auction at the October and November meetings. If you can't get to the meetings, call Laurie. She will arrange to meet you somewhere and pick up your donations.

Vicki will be collecting information about the food (potluck) folks will bring to the party.

Mark the date, time, and place: December 3, 2017. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. Buckhorn Saloon in Piños Altos.

Agenda topic *Concealed Carry class* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

As noted in last month's minutes, the concealed carry permits from a class four years ago, conducted by Butch Cassidy, are about to expire—but Mr. Cassidy is sometimes hard to get ahold of. Dave Imler mentioned an instructor in town and Doug will contact that person and set something up.

It was noted (how about that fine passive voice cover-up to hide the fact that the secretary didn't record the who of the matter!) that non-residents can obtain multi-state permits from Arizona and Virginia, both of which have reciprocity with New Mexico. Online renewal in Arizona costs \$75 and you get a two-year permit.* Virginia, always generous, charges \$100 for a five-year permit (seems like Virginia is the better deal, eh?). New Mexico requires permittees to take an in-person course and to demonstrate their shooting skills.

**About that . . . The Arizona Department of Public Safety makes no mention of non-resident multi-state concealed carry permits and in fact, seems no longer to issue permits from online courses (see <http://concealednation.org/2015/08/online-concealed-carry-permit-certificates-arizona-out-virginia-in-find-out-why/>).*

Several private organizations that offer concealed carry classes make a big deal about multi-state concealed carry permits and online courses. See (for example) <http://www.ccwusa.com/ccw-permits/multi-state-ccw-permit/>. There's a lot of confusing and conflicting information out there about costs and requirements (compare <http://www.illinoisgunpros.com/utah-florida-or-arizona-which-non-resident-ccw-permit-should-i-get/> and <http://aliengearholsters.com/blog/non-resident-concealed-carry-permits-for-travel/>), so maybe it's expedient to accept the hassle of a New Mexico permit and get it over with.

Action items

Person responsible

Contact concealed carry instructor and set up a class

Doug Dexter

Agenda topic BCH Elections in November | Presenter Doug Dexter

All GBCH offices are open for new blood, except for the treasurer's position, which has already been accepted by Nancy Imler and voted on by us (see September 2017 minutes). Consider your willingness to bring happy new energy to the chapter by nominating somebody for or offering to accept one of these offices:

President (currently Doug Dexter)

Vice President (currently Becky Shumway)

Secretary (currently Cindi deCapiteau)

Publicity (currently Ted and Mara Miles)

Public Affairs/Communication (currently Gerry Engel)

Agenda topic Announcements

Next meeting: October 11, 2017, 6:00 p.m., End of the Road Ranch (see map on page 7). (Factoids: End of the Road Ranch now houses around 40 horses. Some of the organization's volunteers are GBCH members.)

The chapter has 209 water bottles left over from the BCHNM Rendezvous. Mickey and Rawlings will take the bottles to the upcoming BCHNM quarterly meeting and offload some of them there. The bottles cost the chapter \$2.16 each, but we can probably get \$3 a piece if we sell them. Ideas to dispose of them are welcome. (These suggestions were offered: Sell the bottles at Tractor Supply. Give one to everybody who comes to the Christmas party.)

Mark your calendars for Sunday, 12/3/2017, 11:00 a.m. for the Christmas Party. Buckhorn Saloon, Piños Altos.

Trail 181 – Holt Apache in Sheridan Gulch (USGS 1999 Holt Mountain and Moon Ranch Maps)



