

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 8/9/2017 6:00 PM | Meeting location WNMU Watts Hall

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Joan Bacon, Amy Burns (guest speaker), Donna Cinti, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Mike Dowd, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Jean Hill, Andrea Imler, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Russ Imler, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Ann McLean (future guest speaker), Ted Miles, Cheryl Roth, Randy Roth, Barb Schalkofski (guest speaker), Becky Shumway, Donna Tillmann, Sandy Weir, Laurie Wlosinski

AGENDA TOPICS

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

Upon the timely entrance into the room of Andrea and Russ Imler, promptly at 6:00, Doug called the meeting to order by delivering an ear-splitting whistle, which not only silenced the crowd into attention, but also deafened everybody and made dogs howl all over Silver City.

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

Doug, always the gracious host, extended welcoming words to Ann McLean, who will present an education segment on driving at the September meeting. He also introduced tonight's guest speakers, Amy Burns and Barb Schalkofski, who serve as emergency dispatchers for Grant County.

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

Nobody had any complaints about or offered improvements to the agenda for this evening's meeting.

Agenda topic *Secretary's report of minutes* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

The minutes from our July meeting are so hilarious and intelligently written that they required no changes.

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

Jean reported that as of the end of June 2017, we had enough money in the bank, \$5,659, to remain financially viable (but not enough to settle the national debt—something that nobody has ever proposed anyway). Jean noted that the tidy sum includes reimbursement from the Southwest Horsemen's Association for our dusty duty as parking attendants at the June rodeo. The sum also reflects reimbursement that eases the burden for the chapter's BCHNM representatives by paying for the mileage they incur to attend state meetings. The chapter has paid for this year's general liability insurance under the BCHNM policy.

We're holding steady at 69 members.

Agenda topic *Publicity* | Presenter *Ted Miles, Mara Miles*

It appears that an interview of Doug and Gerry by a Las Cruces news outlet is a non-starter. Ted hasn't been able to find it anywhere, so it seems it hasn't been published. Doug will contact the author.

Action items

Person responsible

Email author of invisible interview in Las Cruces news.

Doug Dexter

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

Three cheers for the ever loggy-and-brushy Tadpole Ridge trail. Gerry says the logs are cleared from the trailhead at Bear Creek Road (a.k.a. Signal Peak Road) all the way to Sheep Corral Road, a.k.a. Snow Creek trailhead. He reported that he took out some trees that were 2-1/2' in diameter.

The trail needs brushing (doesn't it always?) in the middle section, where brush impinges on the trail to the extent that the trail is nigh impossible to see. Gerry recommended that you ride up to that section and walk through the brush because the going is scary for about 1/4 mile at that point, which is right on the second long ridge, at the big rock right before the trail begins to descend from the ridge. He added that a fire occurred there many years ago and although the section has been cleared, it's brushed up again.

Three sections on the north face of the mountain characterize the Tadpole Ridge trail. The tread on these sections is narrow, soft and collapsible at the edge, and the slope is steep. The Youth Conservation Corps has done some tread work on the first half of the trail. On the third section, the tread is practically non-existent; you can see where the trail is, but there is no constructed trail on the slopes and the going gets rough.

Along with brushing in the middle section the tread there also needs attention—it's a full bench trail, but the tread isn't flat—and has holes, rocks, and trees in the pathway. You can get around this stuff, but your horse needs to be in good shape.

Gerry said he has a call into Lynette Brown (Gila National Forest) about brushing on the trail, which needs lopping from the middle section down to Sheep Corral Road. It's not dangerous to get through, but if you don't know the trail, it would be easy to miss the trail. (If you've never ridden Tadpole Ridge, you'd be wise to have somebody show you through.) Gerry's hoping that the Forest Service will do something up there with tread on the downhill side.

Gerry mused that bicyclists used to traverse Tadpole Ridge and, by the way, didn't Gila Hike & Bike adopt it? Doug will talk to Chris (bigwig at Gila Hike & Bike) to find out if their legions of skinny-but-hardy-clients who have great big thighs can get to brushing up there.

Action items

Person responsible

Call Chris at Gila Hike & Bike about brushing on Tadpole Ridge

Doug Dexter

Agenda topic *Equine Evacuation* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

New GBCH members keep rendering the call tree database incomplete. Doug is working on getting all the new members in.

Agenda topic *GCSAR* | Presenter *Laurie Wlosinski, Russ Imler*

Grant County Search and Rescue has a picnic coming up on Saturday, August 19, starting at 9:a.m. at Little Walnut. This will be a fun training session in the morning, followed by a barbecue.

Agenda topic NATRC Clinic update | Presenter Vicki Dowd

The NARC clinic is scheduled for September 1. Vicki reported that she needs only \$20 to cover all expenses for the event. The judge, Jerry Sims, will camp at Cheryl Roth's place. Vicki will take him out the day before to familiarize him with the environs and the trail. Vicki has met with Forest Service personnel to review where the trail will be. She will also time it.

In the morning on September 1, the lecture portion of the clinic can be audited. The afternoon features a horse-and-rider segment. Vicki urged participants to call her directly for directions to the clinic site (Ft. Bayard's Servis Corral). As of the date of tonight's meeting, the clinic has room for eight more people.

Anybody who comes to the Servis Corral must sign a waiver.

Many non-BCH people have registered for the clinic, which has capacity for 20 horses and riders. Even more auditors will be welcomed.

Cost of the clinic is \$25 to participate in the lecture and ride; \$15 for the lecture only. The lecture will begin at 10:00 a.m. and is expected to last until around noon. After the lecture, there will be an hour's break for lunch. The clinic should be completed by around 4:00.

Vicki has distributed clinic brochures in Deming at Mimbres Valley Feed, at JD's in Silver City, and out at Buckhorn. She has also placed a blurb in the Horsing Around NM magazine.

Agenda topic Fun ride at NAN Ranch | Presenter Cindi deCapiteau

A fun ride will still happen out at NAN Ranch, but the dates have been changed. If you want to participate, you can camp on Friday, August 25, for a fee of \$30. The ride will leave at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday. Bring your lunch. The terrain at NAN Ranch can be rocky, so if your horse is barefoot, bring hoof boots.

No particular route is planned; this is a ride to find out what's out on the north side of the ranch so we can evaluate its suitability for a 2018 NATRC ride.

Vicki has the combination for the entrance gate at NAN Ranch. She can open the gate early on Saturday morning for anybody who is coming out for the fun ride. The gate will be open by 8:00 a.m.

Agenda topic Vote on Treasurer Change | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug related that Jean Hill, our cheerful and efficient treasurer, is retiring from that position. All is not lost, however, because the indomitable Nancy Imler has volunteered to take over. It was moved and seconded to elect Nancy as treasurer. A unanimous vote in favor of the motion resulted, so Nancy will become the chapter's new treasurer and will be added to the checking account at 1st NM bank.

Doug mused that it might be wise and efficient for him to have a couple of checks on hand in case expenses crop up when Nancy is unavailable to fork over the moolah.

Doug also reminded the group that Becky Shumway has assumed responsibilities as vice president in the wake of Susan Austin's departure. Becky will hold that office until elections in November. A motion was made and seconded to install Becky as veep. The vote was unanimous, of course, there being no particular contention about Becky's pure motivations.

Agenda topic Suggestions for education segments | Presenter Cheryl Roth

The chapter's October meeting will be held out at End of the Road Ranch, that jolly retirement home for some of the most amusing horses you'll ever meet. This is a chance to renew your knowledge about the miracles chapter member Carol Johnson accomplishes out there.

Directions: See map on page 6.

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

The mostly complete redeveloped website for BCHNM will be published in the next couple of weeks.

Agenda topic *GBCH Christmas Party* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

Doug, jovial as always, reported that the Buckhorn Saloon has agreed to host the chapter's Christmas party for a mere \$300, which gets us out of washing dishes because the Buckhorn's staff will take care of it, just like they did last year.

Mark the date: Sunday, December 3, 2017, with doors opening at 11:00 a.m.

Vicki will organize the food by hitting everybody up for a potluck dish. Beware and plan to get moving on your favorite covered dish.

One feature of the Christmas party is a silent auction, for which everybody who has extra tack (or merchandise of any old kind sitting around) donates it to the chapter. Laurie Wlosinski offered to coordinate the auction, which earned about \$400 last year. Jean requested that if you buy stuff at the auction, please pay by check (yes, check). Cash and credit cards will not be accepted.

Agenda topic *Announcements*

Next meeting: September 13, 2017

The September meeting's education segment will cover training and driving a horse. Tonight's guest, Ann McLean, will conduct the segment.

Butch Cassidy (yup. That's really his name) conducted a concealed carry class for chapter members a couple of years back; those cards are expiring soon, so we need a class to renew them. Mr. Cassidy can probably be persuaded to come around to teach the class if enough (at least six) people are interested.

Dave Imler commented that he knows somebody in town who can also teach the class, so he will put that together rather than anybody trying to track down Mr. Cassidy.

Laurie Wlosinski said she knows how to apply to Arizona for its concealed carry permit. This is a useful strategy because Arizona has reciprocity with New Mexico for concealed carry. It's easy and cheap to get a permit from Arizona and the only requirement is that you already have a permit. The Grant County sheriff's office says Arizona permits are recognized in New Mexico.

The chapter will pull off a highway cleanup during the second week in September. Cindi will coordinate the detail.

Action items

Person responsible

Set up highway cleanup

Cindi deCapiteau

Education Segment: *Central Dispatch*

Amy Burns is the emergency dispatch director for Grant County. She came before us this evening with information on the history of the 911 emergency call system and also on how to use it.

The 911 name was developed by AT&T in the 1980s; the state of Georgia was the first to test the system. The system was originally a voice-only service, but soon will offer text and video capabilities.

Grant County has two dispatchers on duty at all times. State law mandates that each dispatcher attends a law academy within his or her first year of employment—and New Mexico was the first state in the nation to establish that mandate. At the academy, dispatchers study material specific to answering emergency calls. They are also taught how to handle them. Dispatchers are certified in incident command and emergency procedures. One of a dispatcher's greatest strengths is the ability to provide help over the phone until emergency medical personnel arrive on the scene.

A dispatcher will ask a caller to stay on the phone until the emergency is alleviated. A dispatcher asks questions, listens to the answer, and types information into an information system as the call proceeds. Once entered into the system, the information goes directly to responders (cops and emergency medical technicians).

A dispatcher will listen to the description of the event that resulted in a 911 call and will tell you if your particular situation does not constitute an emergency. Don't be afraid to call 911 if you're not certain.

911 was developed as a standard emergency contact number throughout the US. Other countries have similar systems, but use different numbers.

Dispatchers do a lot for us. They appreciate our votes for taxes that keep their services available. They are mandated to update their skills and knowledge annually in emergency medical services, domestic violence, fire, suicide, and other emergency situations.

Grant County central dispatch also teaches CPR, the use of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) and can arrange first aid classes. Amy herself is certified to teach CPR for New Mexico Region 2 EMS; certification cards through her network cost a mere \$7.

The most important thing a dispatcher does is answer the phone.

Cheryl Roth noted that the GBCH chapter is in the process of providing training on our favorite satellite communication device, the Garmin inReach, and asked if central dispatch is linked into that emergency response network. The system is indeed connected and dispatchers talk with a real person from the international dispatch center up in Colorado.

Becky Shumway commented that video and text capabilities for 911 could be confusing. Amy responded that central dispatch can already handle TDD (telecommunications device for the deaf) transactions, so video and text would work through similar protocols. The new capabilities will be part of a system called Next Generation 911 and will help dispatchers overcome challenges of not having two-way communication with callers.

Gerry Engel asked what are strangest calls dispatchers have received. Amy replied that someone wanted to know where to vote. The worst call she handled was one when Amy's brother found their father deceased from a ruptured aortic aneurysm. Another bad call was for a little girl who jumped off the front of a boat, wearing life vest, and got sucked under boat and into the propeller. Central dispatch handles calls for accidental shootings, lonely people who need to talk, barking dogs, and active shooters. Many calls are stressful, so dispatchers have access to people who help with debriefing after an incident. Dispatchers deal with ugly stuff, but also really good stuff.

The incident that Amy says made her want to do this job was when she took a call from a screaming mom whose baby was choking and Amy was able to help. It's a good feeling when dispatchers realize they make a positive difference.

Randy Roth asked if central dispatch receives GPS coordinates even if GBS not enabled on phone? Amy replied "sometimes yes, sometimes no." Sometimes they receive at least the coordinates of nearest cell tower. She advised us to turn on GPS tracking on our phones so EMS can find us.

An emergency call made through OnStar will stream call directly to dispatch and dispatchers can talk to an individual person in a vehicle via OnStar.

