

# Gila Chapter

## Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

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Meeting date | time 2/21/2018 12:00 AM | Meeting location WNMU Watts Hall

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

### Attendees

Zack Crockett, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Joan Dewbre, Vicki Dowd, Jerry Engel, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Russ Imler, Ann McLean, Maureen McLeod, Ted Miles, Charlen Perez, Cheryl Roth, Nathan Roth (guest), Becky Shumway, Donna Tillmann, Laurie Wlosinski

## AGENDA TOPICS

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Agenda topic Recognize guests | Presenter Doug Dexter

Joining us this evening, fresh from the frozen fields of South Dakota, is Nathan Roth, son of Cheryl and Randy. Nathan and his two cats have moved to Silver City in search of a warmer climate in which to complete Nathan's Master's degree.

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Agenda topic Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Doug Dexter

Nobody wanted to extend the agony of this meeting by requesting additions or changes to the agenda, so it proceeded as distributed.

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Agenda topic Financial and membership report | Presenter Nancy Imler

Bank balance of \$8,355.62 as of January 31, 2018. The chapter now has 18 single memberships and 19 family memberships for a total of 56 members so far for 2018. The chapter made no withdrawals from the bank account during this period and received a donation of \$500 from Meyoni Geouge.

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Agenda topic Chapter Secretary | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug made another plea for somebody to take over the chapter secretary position. The plea once again fell on unsympathetic ears, causing the acting secretary to roll her eyes and shed tears of disappointment. Somebody asked why we can't just rotate the minute-taking job among willing members, to which Doug answered that the chapter charter requires a named person to fill the position.

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Agenda topic Education | Presenter Jessica Swapp, Grant County Extension Agent

The good Ms. Swapp is in charge of toxic weeds, livestock transportation documents, and 4H for the Grant County Cooperative Extension Office. She discussed toxic weeds. If you want more information, you should have shown up at the meeting.

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Agenda topic Publicity | Presenter Ted Miles

Ted noted that the chapter website (<http://gilabchnm.com/>) has received over 6,000 views during its lifetime.

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*Agenda topic Public Service | Presenter Gerry Engel*

Uh oh. The chapter is not currently crosscut/chainsaw certified because the first aid certificates for our sawyers have expired. Gerry has talked to Forest Service muckety-mucks about putting on a show of bandages and CPR for us and will be able to set up something soon. Be prepared to clear your schedules on short notice.

Amy Hartel has been meeting with various groups to contract with the Forest Service so brushing can occur on trails much in need of that kind of work. Gerry will provide information about trails that need treatment.

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*Agenda topic Equine Evacuation | Presenter Doug Dexter*

Doug claimed that he conducted a final test of the text message alert system today. Some members said they received it; others denied any responsibility for same.

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*Agenda topic Search and Rescue | Presenter Laurie Wlosinski*

Grant County Search and Rescue has been making up for the lazy last few months of no missions. The organization has conducted five missions in the last two months. None of the missions required participation from the mounted unit.

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*Agenda topic NAN Ranch Ride | Presenter Vicki Dowd*

Vicki reported that all trails for the April 2018 ride have been identified and three-fourths of them are now flagged. Some personnel are still needed for the ride—timekeepers and recorders, gatekeepers. Drivers have all been selected. We are working on maps for drivers and riders.

In the next few weeks, riders will test the trails for clear marking, safety, time, and distance. Ilene Wignall and Gerry Engel will work the Novice trail. Cindi deCapiteau and another yet-to-be-identified rider will review the Open trail.

The ride is being advertised all over the place—in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Arizona. Word-of-mouth is getting the news out there along with articles in Zia magazine and Horse Around New Mexico. Several announcements have been posted on the Gila Chapter's website and Facebook page.

Packets containing ride information and entry forms have been distributed in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Grant County through feed stores and ride officials who have lots of friends. The packet is available for download from <http://gilabchnm.files.wordpress.com/2017/10/nan-ranch-ride-2018.pdf>

Ride registration deadline is April 13, 2018.

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*Agenda topic BCHNM | Presenter Mickey Lemon*

Another fun-filled quarterly meeting of the New Mexico BCH state chapter has taken place. The new officers want to know how they can help us local yokels out here in the hot hinterlands. The burning issue at the moment and for the foreseeable future is the nefarious proposal to allow incendiary practice air travel through the Gila weeds by iron gorillas from Holloman Air Force Base. BCHNM can help us put a stop to this stupid proposal by protesting long and loud about it, just as we do whenever given the opportunity, and insisting on the prohibition of flyovers atop wilderness areas.

The Gila region, by the way, is not the only primitive area that the Air Force is eyeballing for training flights. Mickey said she would convey our dire concerns to the people who are supposed to be in charge of BCHNM.

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*Agenda topic One Million Bones Project | Presenter Gerry Engel*

The Gila chapter made real progress on moving dem bones onto the mountain behind Bear Mountain Lodge. A bunch of us packed bones for three days and eliminated between nine and 11 pallets. There's more to do, boys and girls, and the work is an ideal training opportunity for humans and their riding and pack animals. Gerry will schedule another work detail of two days because three's too many.

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*Agenda topic Trail Days | Presenter Doug Dexter*

Silver City's annual Trail Days Festival is coming up in April. The Gila BCH chapter will be conducting the ever-popular crosscut saw demonstration and branding of "cookies." Cookies are slabs that folks slice from the ends of logs. The slabs get branded with the logo of the Continental Divide Trail. If you want to participate, send an email to Doug.

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*Agenda topic New Regulations for Livestock Haulers | Presenter Joan Dewbre*

There's new legislation out there that's causing normal old little people hauling horses to be traffic stopped. Seems that commercial livestock haulers moving a combined rig weight of 26K lbs. must possess a commercial driver's license. The law isn't supposed to apply to anybody except those hauling livestock for hire, but we'uns is getting pulled over anyway.

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*Agenda topic Future Education Segment | Presenter Cheryl Roth*

Cheryl is looking into a segment on emergency care for equines following trailer accidents. Grant County has protocols and equipment to clean up disasters of this nature and we need to know what they are and how they work. Cheryl received a favorable response for this idea.

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*Agenda topic Announcements*

The annual Tommyknocker bicycle race will ravage Ft. Bayard again this year around March 10. Don't take your equines out there unless you're pretty sure they don't panic at the approach of bicycles.