

# Gila Chapter

## Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

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Meeting date | time 3/14/2018 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, Cathy Brett, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd, Mary Beth Folia, Jean Hill, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Donna Impero, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Ted Miles, Kathy Murch, Charlen Perez, Becky Shumway, Stephanie Stone, Donna Tillmann, Nat Williams, Laurie Wlosinski

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Agenda topic Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Doug Dexter

Add to tonight's agenda a discussion of the nefarious Holloman AFB incendiary training exercises proposed for the Gila Wilderness areas.

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Agenda topic Financial and membership report | Presenter Nancy Imler

As usual, the bank balance is looking good. Contact Nancy directly for details. The Gila chapter currently has 63 members, of which 22 are family memberships and 19 are singles.

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Agenda topic Publicity | Presenter Ted Miles

Ted wants to retire from this position, but will continue. The chapter received positive feedback from the display we set up at the Silver City Library.

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Agenda topic Public Service/Communications | Presenter Gerry Engel

A bunch of chapter members participated in CPR and 1<sup>st</sup> aid training, so the chapter is now sawyer certified. Doug Dexter and Russ Imler were unable to take the 1<sup>st</sup> aid class when it was offered, but the trainer will conduct a special class for them. Dave Imler piped up with a paramedic's perspective, saying that if you have any medical issues, make sure your riding partner knows about them, especially if you carry an epi pen.

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Agenda topic Search and Rescue | Presenter Laurie Wlosinski

SAR missions lately have been typical—wood cutters, autistic lost ones, but no hikers. The group is conducting mock searches to support incident command certification.

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Agenda topic BCH New Mexico Meeting | Presenter Rawlings, Mickey Lemon

The uppity lawyer in charge of distributing information about public lands has resigned. The Lemons will attend the quarterly state meeting on March 24.

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*Agenda topic One Million Bones | Presenter Gerry Engel*

The bones are still up there in boxes at Bear Mountain Lodge, but the quantity is somewhat diminished. Gerry will schedule another pack detail of two days to haul bones. Linda, the Lodge owner, isn't particularly concerned about getting all the bones up there before the exhibit opens on April 14.

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

Vicki reported that the upcoming NAN Ranch competitive trail ride (April 20-22, 2018) has been publicized in Desert Exposure and Horse Around New Mexico. She noted that the trails riders will follow have been defined and timed, and that she has prepared maps. Vicki described the trails. The ride this year has fewer gates to deal with than the 2016 event. Pat Wolph and Cassie Carver will be gatekeepers. Awards for riders have been purchased.

The group discussed provisions to pay for the food consumed by workers (in the event there is an insufficient number of riders to cover expenses), but decided to defer the discussion until the April meeting, pending knowledge of the number of entries.

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*Agenda topic Medevac Insurance | Presenter Doug Dexter*

Doug has polled the group to determine interest in participating in insurance to cover evacuation by air transport. Fourteen people want to sign up. Send an email message to Doug to request an application for wilderness travel and any other event that might require medical evacuation.

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*Agenda topic Trail Days | Presenter Doug Dexter*

The Gila chapter is putting on a crosscut saw demonstration on April 28. Volunteers are needed. The plan is to have a chapter member work one end of a crosscut saw while a member of the public works the other end. The two sawyers will cut a slice off the log. The slice will be branded with the logo of the Continental Divide Trail. People are needed to set up, man the saw, keep the branding fires hot, wield the branding irons, and talk up the Back Country Horsemen.

If you want to help, send a note to Doug.

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*Agenda topic Obnoxious military training flights over the Gila*

Stephanie Stone asked about the chapter's stance on the proposed fighter jet training flights over the Gila and Aldo Leopold wilderness areas. The chapter has no "official" stance, but feelings run high that we don't much care for the idea. Dixie Dexter said that she heard Joe Saenz talking about this travesty of good sense and fire prevention on the radio. Mickey and Rawlings will bring up the matter at the BCHNM meeting.

An official US Air Force decision on the proposal is expected in late summer. In the meantime, Becky Shumway has mailing addresses for bigwigs at the Pentagon. She noted that Mike Rizzo (Federal Aeronautics Administration) and Heather Wilson (secretary of the Air Force) must sign off on the proposal. Becky will forward the address information to Gerry so that he can distribute it to GBCH members, enabling the members thereby to bury the officials in emails and letters of protest.

Doug Dexter will draft a letter. Gerry Engel noted that the most effective approach for such letters is to load them up with specific issues—such as the hideous problem of wildfires generated by plane crashes, the economic impact of noise and pollution on Grant County's tourism income, and the fact that this will cause a mighty public relations problem for the Air Force.

Kyle Johnson made a recording of the entire recent public discussion and has played it several times on the local radio station KRVR. The recording will be submitted as evidence to combat the proposal when the time comes. Stephanie will review and edit any materials the chapter prepares for submission.