

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 4/12/2022 6:00 PM | Meeting location Zoom

Meeting called by	Doug Dexter	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Joan Bacon, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd, Nancy Imler, Mickey Lemon, Nat Williams, Laurie Wlosinski
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

AGENDA TOPICS

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

After Zoom misfired for about 15 minutes, confusing everybody, Doug called the meeting to order at around 6:20 p.m. He was accompanied by an echo and some kind of thumping noise that apparently resulted from the secretary's duplicate sign-in while she was bewildered by the Zoom delay.

Agenda topic *Approval of minutes* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

Minutes were approved by murmured affirmative voice vote.

Agenda topic *Financial & membership report* | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

After paying for insurance of some type, the chapter's ending balance was plus or minus \$20,000. The chapter has 50 members as of today.

Agenda topic *Publicity* | Presenter *Vicki Dowd*

Vicki has written another article for *Desert Exposure*. Expected publication is for May 2022.

Agenda topic *GCSAR Activity* | Presenter *Laurie Wlosinski*

While search and rescue types and local sirenheads twiddle their thumbs, there's still nothing going on in the overdue and missing backwoods excursionists department. The season is getting ripe for through-hikers on the Continental Divide Trail, so the nervous energy of rescuers might soon have a productive outlet.

Agenda topic *NATRC/NAN Ranch Update* | Presenter *Vicki Dowd*

Life is still complicated in this post-COVID interim. The North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC), which sanctions the erstwhile NAN Ranch competitive trail ride sponsored by the Gila chapter, has an online system through which competitors register for the ride. That system was offline (nobody said why) for several days during the period when riders should be registering. Charlen Perez, the ride secretary for the 2022 ride (scheduled for April 23-24, contacted NATRC's webmaster, who remarked that everybody in the US is having trouble. That news did little to help and the outage has messed us up.

Nevertheless, the ride is a go, even though rider entries are down.

In the big-bucks department, which is one of the reasons to put this ride on, the ride has received lots of donations. Vicki expects we will end up \$1500 or so to the good.

The trails have been flagged for the three competition categories (Competitive Pleasure (CP), Novice, and Open). The Open category is the longest and most challenging ride. Alas, as of this evening, we have no entries for the Open category, so we might not need workers for that ride. We'll know by April 16, to which the registration deadline has been extended because of the system outage.

The ride has plenty of CP and Novice entries.

Agenda topic *Highway Cleanup* | **Presenter** *Matt Rehani*

According to Vicki, the recent Adopt-a-Highway detail was a fun time (it always is)Vicki. The Gila Chapter's persistence on the stretch of highway 180 between mile markers 108 and 109 has made a difference over the years. The ragpickers had it cleaned up in record time, about one hour. Joan Bacon mused that it was pretty clean to start with.

Agenda topic *Cooking & food prep for trail projects* | **Presenter** *Mickey Lemon*

Mickey says the cooks are now setting up for the three trail projects in May.

Agenda topic *Give Grandly Update* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

The Gila Chapter is moving into ever-more conspicuous fund-raising methods, one of which is the community's annual "Give Grandly" (GG) event (<https://www.givegrandly.org/>). For the first time, GBCH has signed up. We need several people to work to set up our booth, assist with cookie branding, collect and record contributions, and help participants from other organizations set up (and take down) their booths.¹ The GG organizers assigned GBCH to a great spot and they are looking forward to having us there. The event is a good chance to interface with the community.

See details about the job requirements on page 4.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 7, 2022. Setup begins at 7:30 a.m.

Action items

Person responsible

Contact Doug to register for the Give Grandly event

All members who aren't clearing trails

Agenda topic *GBCH gear purchase*

Laurie Wlosinski noted that delivery of the apparel from Morningstar will be about 3 weeks after closing (which occurred on March 31). Those who ordered will be notified by email and/or Cheryl Roth when the stuff is ready for pick-up.

¹ If the plural form of "tooth" is "teeth," why is the plural form of booth not "beeth?"

Agenda topic Rodeo Parking, 6/10 & 6/11 | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug has agreed to help direct vehicle parking at this year's rodeo (<https://silvercityprorodeo.com/>). The Gila Chapter traditionally contributes a dozen people to the effort. This year our participation will be particularly courteous because the Southwest Horsemen's Association (the organization that sponsors the rodeo and owns the rodeo grounds) let us use their arena for the packing demo on April 2, 2022.

The rodeo has an earlier-than-usual starting time this year, so parking attendants should be in and out by 7:30 p.m. each evening the rodeo occurs. Volunteers are needed. Contact Doug Dexter.

June 10-11, 2022, 4:30 p.m., Southwest Horseman's Park, off US Hwy 180 eastbound east of the 32nd St. Bypass.

Action items

Person responsible

Call Doug to sign-up for a rodeo shift

Everybody

Agenda topic Announcements |

The Gila Chapter's first-class trail work for the last two years is going to receive national attention. Dan Key, chairman of BCHNM, will give GBCH a mention at the upcoming BCHA National Board Meeting (<https://www.bcha.org/blog/2022/02/05/bcha-2022-national-board-meeting/>).

Gerry Engel announced this news a couple of weeks ago (see the report below and especially the GBCH mention on page 5).

Move and second to adjourn at 6:47.

Next Meeting: May 11, 2022

A community wide program for 501c3 organizations. Donations from the community are matched all or in part from Grant Monies. This is the first year for the annual event for GBCH.

1. Date: Saturday, May 7th Location: Makers Plaza (next to behind Adobe Springs restaurant)
2. Time: Set up at 7:30 AM. Public arrivals at 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
3. What: A booth with our banners and photos of trail work, and bucksaw participation in making cookies for branding and for visitors to see what GBCH is about and hopefully connect GBCH more with our community.
4. Staffing:

Tasks: Booth – money manager with cash jar, booth attendees for discussing trail work and GBCH mission

Cookies – saw manager and helper, propane/branding chief and helper (like with gloves)

Morning:

Hauling the wood, saws, branding iron, propane tanks and torches, GBCH canopy, table, chairs and stuff to display.

Setting up and assisting other folks in setting up (part of the deal)

Staffing the booth, saw-cutting and branding cookies.

Afternoon:

Staffing the booth, saw-cutting and branding cookies.

Take down and load up wood, saw, propane and burners, canopy, chairs and banners/photos.

5. We will need a cash box with change, for donations, received on site, and a log for all folks contributing so we can send thanks. Need pens and a tablet for notes.

6. Does anyone have video of trail work that could run from a laptop?

7. Doug will deliver to Gerry or member of choice the following:

2 propane bottles (full)

2 propane torches and a flame starter

2 banners for the booth

1 GBCH Branding Iron (newly received) Rawlings to bring CDT branding iron to expedite reheating of the GBCH iron.

Sadly, Dixie and I cannot participate as we will be at our 60th HS reunion in Calif....

My staffing would look like this:

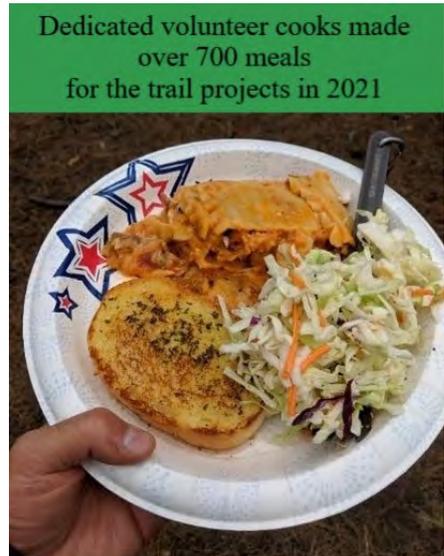
- Morning delivery and set up: 4 guys/gals at 7:30 and help other booths where needed.
- Morning staffing: booth for Q and A and take money..... 3
- Morning cutting and branding 3 - 4
- Afternoon: Staffing for booth Q and A and contributions.. 3
- Afternoon cutting and branding 3- 4
- Afternoon tear down and load up 4 guys/gals at 2:00
- Also help other booths as needed.

2021 State Report
Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico

The eight Chapters of Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico contributed \$514,547.00 in total value in the 2021 season. We are very proud of our contribution in keeping our forests and trails open for all trail users. Chapters in New Mexico worked in conjunction with other volunteer groups, hikers, conservation groups, mountain bikers, and other equine groups. It was a joint effort to help keep the trails open.



Volunteers working trails in the Gila National Forest in 2021.



New Mexico Back Country Horsemen chapters' volunteers also provided pack support for supplies and meals.



New Mexico chapters were also handy clearing trails with two-man saws and other tools in 2021.

Chapters around the state provided educational assistance including Public Lands information to our members and to the public.

Of Special Note: Gila Chapter was able to obtain grants and funding from National Forest Foundation in partnership with Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance- Trails Grant, Great American Outdoors Act Funding, and Individual Donations. Using this grant funding they were able to work with and fund help from multiple agencies including New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, Silver City Biker Group, NM Wild Ancestral Land Conservation Crew, AmeriCorps Crew, Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance.

The Chapter was able to hire Melissa Green to coordinate and organize projects. The Chapter provided pack support, meals both packed in to crews and of course hands-on trailwork. The Gila Chapter had a total of 7500 work hours in 2021.

The eight Chapters of New Mexico have 39 family memberships and 56 single memberships. Here is the breakdown of our work:

- Basic hours worked, 5013 at a value of \$143,071.00
- Skilled hours worked, 3261 at a value of \$139,570.00
- Non trail work, 1278 at a value of \$36,459
- Travel time = 1679 hours at a value of \$47,668
- Total hours worked was 11,222 with a value of \$366,770.00
- Travel Miles = 64250 with a value of \$64,250.00
- Total equipment hours 25 with a value of \$750.00
- Stock days 443 with a value of \$44,300.00
- Total donations were \$38,477.00
- New Mexico chapter members provided a total of \$514,547.00 in volunteer effort!

BCHNM is proud to welcome a new Chapter in 2022. The Hermit Peak Chapter will provide some much-needed trail support to the east side of the Pecos Wilderness. Welcome to Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico.