

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 9/8/21 Meeting location Gomez Peak Pavilion

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Joan Bacon, Maria Biondo Longton, Cathy Brett, Pat Buls, Cindi deCapiteau, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Melissa Green, Betsy Holdsworth, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Kathy Murch, Matt Rehani, Cheryl Roth, Diane Taliafero, Nat Williams, Ilene Wignall, Laurie Wlosinski

AGENDA TOPICS

Call to order | Presenter Doug Dexter

Tonight's meeting came to order right around 6:00, in the splendiferous environment of the Gila National Forest, following a barbecue the Forest Service spread before us to honor trail workers, who truly deserve a barbecue.

Financial & membership report | Presenter Nancy Imler

Finances are doing just fine. The bank balance is over \$8500. More important, the Gila Chapter has sixty-eight members. (Top THAT, New Mexico!)

Public Service/Communications | Presenter Gerry Engel

The trail clearing schedule (as posted at <https://www.gilabch.org/>) morphs along with the weather and other conditions as observed and reported by boots on the ground. A project in McKnight Canyon (map on page 4) has been cancelled. The project on the Flying V trail isn't serendipitous for horses and their riders, so Gerry proposes a couple of days at Willow Creek (map on page 5) for the exquisite pleasure of riding trails we have cleared up there. Everybody is welcome, but bring your own drinking water as you will find the water in the horse pens to be murky, green, and unappetizing. The Turkey Creek project (map on page 6) has been called off because of fire and high water. We'll try Turkey Creek again in spring 2022.

The Rain Creek project (October 27-31) (map on page 7) is still on for now, but Gerry will re-evaluate its feasibility as the appointed hours draw near.

The Gila Chapter's 20th Anniversary. The Gila BCHNM Chapter was started by the late Gerry Thompson in 2001. Since the chapter's inception, we have maintained about 1200 trail miles as completed by volunteer hours totaling 10 person years.

Melissa Green reported that she's working on a project to replace missing direction signs in the wilderness district. The project is in the works for winter 2021-22 and will be held at the Hudson Street Forest Service building (next to the post office). Volunteer sign makers are needed. Melissa will put out a formal notice about this. If you want more information, contact Melissa directly.

Action items

Person responsible

Prepare notice and distribute info about the sign project

Melissa Green

GCSAR Activity | Presenter Laurie Wlosinski/Russ Imler

No daring and heroic search and rescue missions have taken place, but fear not. With scouting for game prior to the hunting season (beginning in September), mishaps are likely to occur and people are sure to disappear.

BCHNM State Updates | Presenter Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon

A meeting of BCHNM directors and chapter reps is scheduled for September 9. Decision-making continues about the Rendezvous, which won't be held at Ft. Stanton after all (blame COVID). Instead, Tia and Robert Polk have volunteered the use of their ranch for this usually thrilling event, now scaled back into the Realm of No Fun (blame COVID). The Rendezvous begins on October 22 at the designated property near Grants NM.

To compensate for the COVID accommodations at the Rendezvous, the incomparable Dan Key (with his amusing applications of the English language) will conduct a crosscut saw demo-training-experimentation on Saturday October 23. Saturday will also feature a raffle, along with an evening meeting of the BCHNM board, to which nobody except the willing and the reps needs to attend.

There's going to be a last-minute ride, but details are sketchy at the moment. Mickey will distribute a notice with details (including directions to the ranch) after the BCHNM meeting tomorrow.

Action items

Person responsible

Prepare and distribute a notice about the Rendezvous

Mickey Lemon

NAN Ranch Ride | Presenter Vicki Dowd

Vicki says there's nothing new to report about the NATRC (North American Trail Ride Conference) ride to be held in spring 2022 at NAN Ranch. Vicki would like to see a membership vote on the ride, but absent that authorization, she and her crew are proceeding with planning. Doug asked Vicki to provide a count of volunteers signed up for the ride. Vicki will provide same.

Action items

Person responsible

Decide if and when to hold a membership vote on the NAN Ranch Ride

Doug Dexter

Provide a count of volunteers

Vicki Dowd

Helmet decals, Trail accomplishments poster | Presenter Gerry Engel



The chapter will order 200 decals bearing our brand-new logo. The snazzy decals will be stuck onto trail worker helmets so the universe can understand who's responsible for all log-and-brush-free pathways up in the Gila.

A couple of years ago, the Forest Service prepared a bragging rights poster that featured photos of Gila Chapter trail work and workers. Everybody agrees the poster needs to be updated and the Forest Service is dutifully working on that. The new poster should be ready by the time of the county fair (see next agenda topic).

County Fair | Presenter Gerry Engel

We have kicked around the notion of having a booth at the upcoming Grant County Fair to be held at the rodeo grounds over in Cliff. We now know that the fair officials want \$100 for a booth; Doug will try to talk them out of

it, since we plan to staff the booth for only one night (that would be on Saturday). The plan is to staff the booth before exhibits open and for a few hours after rodeo starts. (*Update: Our participation at the fair was cancelled.*)

Christmas Party | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

The Christmas party can't be held at the Buckhorn, because its owners have decided they don't want to do parties. So we need to find a venue—maybe at the college. Doug will look into it.

Action items

Person responsible

Find a stable, a manger, and some wise men for our Christmas Party.	Doug Dexter
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Elections | Presenter *Doug Dexter*

Folks, the Gila Chapter leadership needs fresh blood. The members on the board of directors have served for many years and are willing to turn over their impressive powers to others. So think about what office you would enjoy holding and step up!

Action items

Person responsible

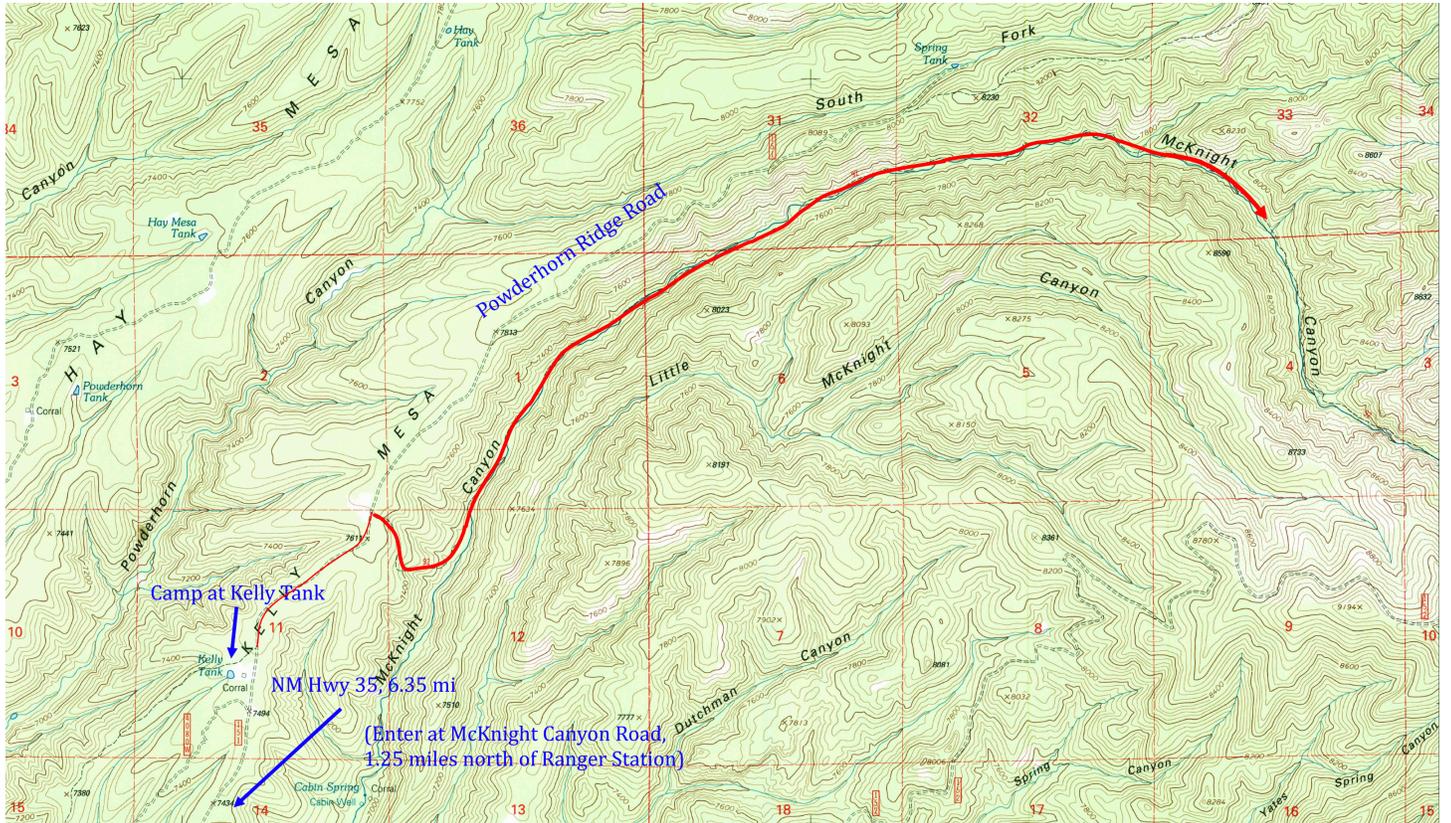
Deadline

Announce your run for a chapter office	Everybody	October 13
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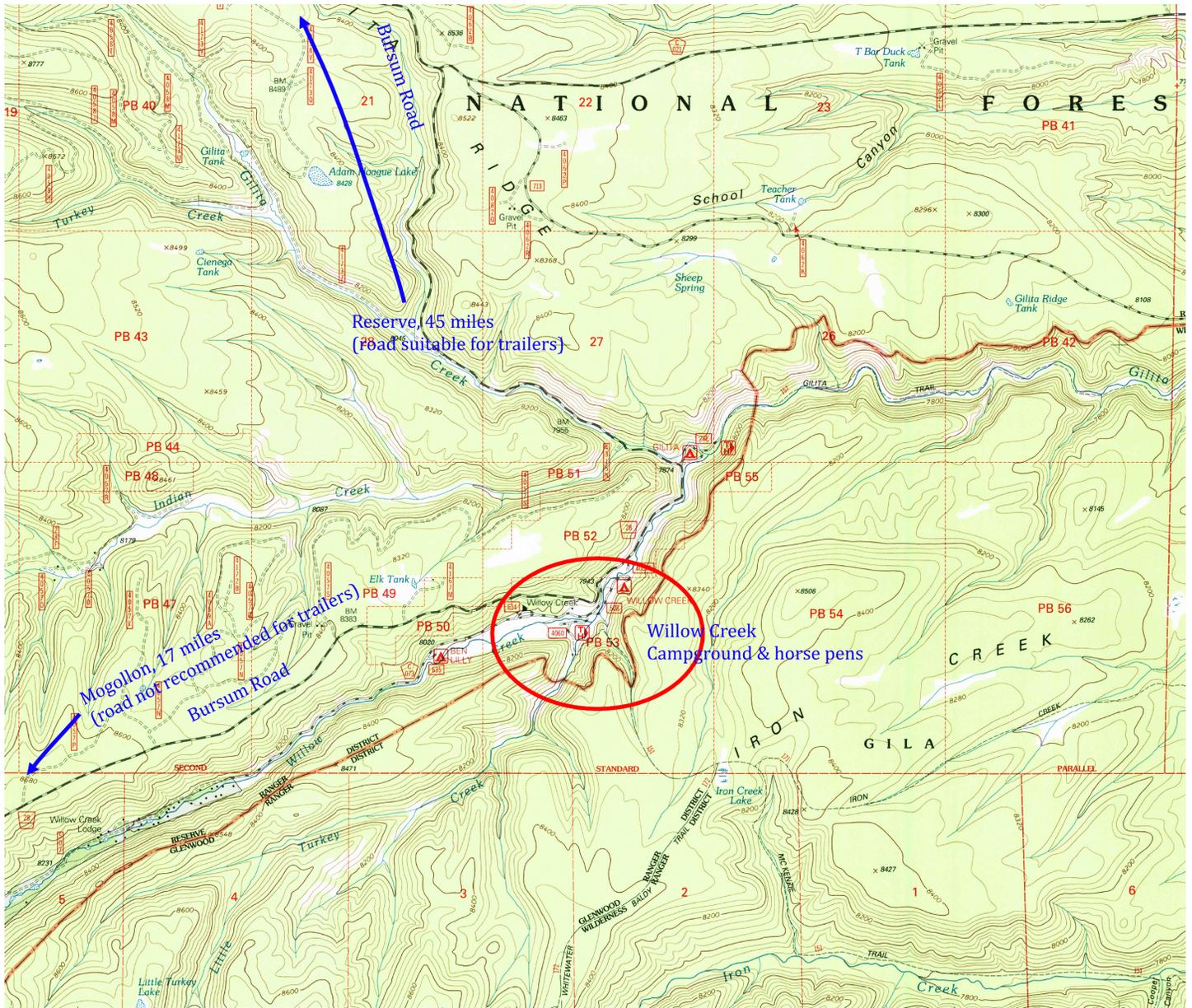
Agenda topic *Announcements*

The next chapter meeting will be held on October 13 at Watts Hall on Silver Heights Blvd., across the street from CVS. Enter from the back door.

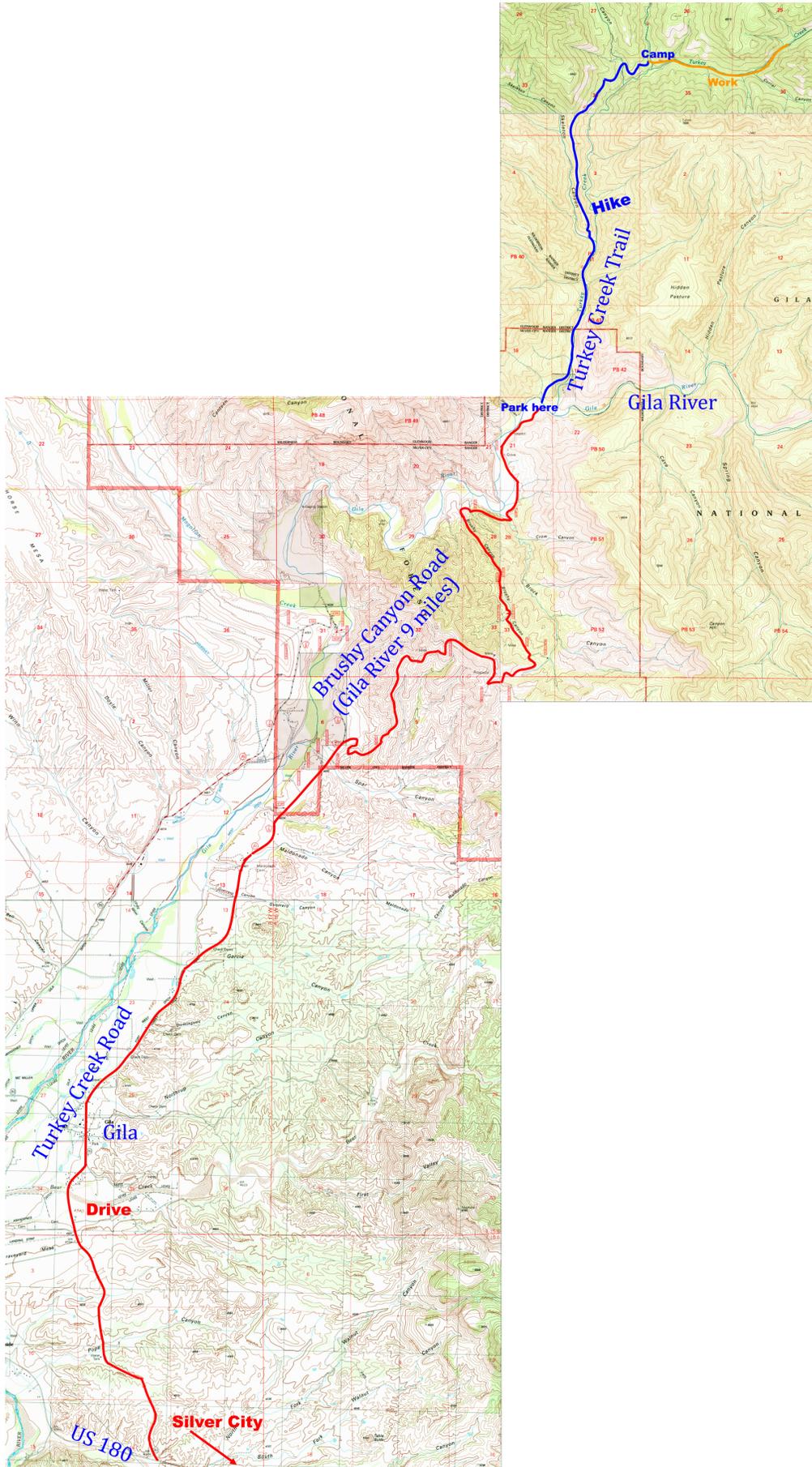
McKnight Canyon (source USGS Hay Canyon Quad Map, 1999)



Willow Creek (source: USGS 199 Quad Map, Negrito Mountain)



Turkey Creek (source: USGS 1999 quad maps for Cliff, Canteen Canyon, Shelley Peak, Canyon Hill)



Rain Creek (Source: Melissa Green)

