

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Date | time [6/14/23 | 6:00 p.m.] | Location [Grant County Extension Office]

Meeting called by Matt Rehani

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

[Joan Bacon, Maria Biondo, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Dave Imler, Richelle Price, Matt Rehani, Cheryl Roth, Laurie Wlosinski]

AGENDA TOPICS

Recognize guests and new members | Presenter Matt Rehani

We almost had a guest this evening. Cheryl Roth announced an acquaintance (via Jayne Hempstead) with a veterinarian from Tucson, name of Carol Clark. Cheryl invited her to attend this evening's meeting, but Dr. Clark's horse had a bellyache and needed to be monitored, so we had neither guests nor new members attending.

Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Matt Rehani

No changes

Approval of minutes | Presenter Matt Rehani

The minutes from the May meeting must have been outstanding; nobody had any changes to recommend. Somebody made the all-important motion to accept those minutes as submitted. The 10 (count 'em) members present voted unanimously to approve the minutes, which implies somebody actually read them.

Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

According to Dave Imler (always on top of things) the flow of money in and out of the chapter's coffers panned out as follows:

Income:

- ➡ \$26.42 from Amazon's now-defunct "Smile" program
- ➡ \$1,558 from Give Grandly
- ➡ \$10K from the National Forest Foundation as their matching contribution to a grant

Expenses:

- ➡ Expenses from May to June were \$34,599.44, plus a minor amount to rent the Gomez Peak pavilion for the July picnic.

Nitty Gritty:

- ➡ The bank balance of around \$26K includes \$15K in unobligated funds.
- ➡ Money channeled into our account from grant payments is obligated for trail work.

Membership:

Membership holds at 56, although there is a new application from the bellyache-tending Dr. Carol Clark. Dave indicated that Dr. Clark won't be assessed a membership fee until 2024, because that's only fair; otherwise, she would pay a full year's fee for only six months of membership. Dave will add her to the mailing list so that she gets all the information that's fit to release to the public.

GCSAR Activity | Presenter Laurie Wlosinski

Search and rescue were called out for an 88-year-old man in Reserve, who was reported to have early dementia. He was accompanied by a dog and had been out of touch for 36 hours. GCSAR moved in during the night and found the subject by virtue of his distinctive track, made by his three-legged cane, and his dog, who barked at the search team's approach.

GCSAR has a dozen or so new members, who need to certify by taking FEMA courses.

State BCH Update | Presenters Joan Bacon, Cheryl Roth

Although discussions to raise NMBCH and BCHA dues in 2024 are in progress, nothing has been decided.

The BCHNM Rendezvous will be in the Gallop NM area; Ft. Stanton had been under consideration, but set up barriers of too much paperwork and expense. The Rendezvous might be held in September or some other time during the fall. Maybe.

Public Service | Presenter Matt Rehani

Trail work. The fall trail work schedule will be released later this month, maybe as soon as next week.

Jerry Engel is in Alaska.

Melissa Green is working on trails in the Bear Canyon-Allie Canyon loop. (Complex map under development.)

Email newsletter. A strategy is under consideration to expand awareness about GBCH via a periodic newsletter, to be distributed by email. Melissa is looking for vendors to design and maintain mailing list. The newsletter could be a good way to blast out announcements and updates, with an eye toward membership recruitment. It would be distributed to both GBCH members and non-members, especially people from the hiking community and people who don't have horses. Sending the newsletter directly to inboxes is more convenient for some people than visiting the websites and Facebook, where most of our information is now posted.

A consideration for distribution is whether to create a separate email list or add non-members to our current members-only list.

Gila Centennial. The Gila centennial celebration is happening in 2023. GBCH has had a significant role in maintaining Gila trails for a couple of decades, but we're so obscure that few Gila visitors know about us. The centennial would be a good way to get our message out, should we want to be involved in the celebration.

The spring trail work season is coming to a close, so the period between now and the fall (when trail work picks up again) is an opportunity to discuss the newsletter and our involvement in the centennial and decide what we want to do. So, plan to attend the July picnic and August meeting so you can weigh in.

Sawyer certification. If your sawyer certification (for crosscut and/or chainsaw) has expired, you'll want to know that Melissa and Gerry can re-certify you if you come out on a project. For new certifications, the Forest Service might do a certification course in the coming year.

Trail food. GBCH provided 375 meals for trail workers this year. We still have food in freezers, but workers will gobble that up in a hurry. If you want to cook and package trail food, Melissa will announce the strategy in the fall.

Highway Cleanup | Presenter Matt Rehani

A highway litter pickup will occur on June 17. As always, meet at 9:00 a.m. at the intersection of US 180 and the Truck Bypass Road near Wind Canyon. Wear long sleeves, boots, work gloves, and a hat.

Summer Picnic | Presenter Matt Rehani

GBCH holds a picnic during the summer in place of a normal business meeting. This year’s picnic will take place on July 12, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at the Gomez Peak pavilion on Little Walnut Road. Doug Dexter will coordinate the event by email. Watch for messages from him soliciting information about your pot-luck contribution. Cindi has to weigh in. Doug will bring amplifier.

Action items	Person responsible
Contact Doug Dexter to announce your pot-luck dish for the picnic.	All members attending.
Provide public address system, assess need for plates, flatware, cups, glasses, etc.	Doug Dexter

Announcements |

Next Meeting: July 12, 2023, Gomez Peak Pavilion, 4:00

According to Cheryl Roth, there’s good hay for sale at a farm down toward Animas. The outfit is selling mostly beardless wheat, with oats, rye, and barley. They have small bales and squeezes (3’x3’x7’) at \$228 per squeeze. Call or text Jed Kerr at 575-534-5398.