

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

10/11/2023 6:00 PM | Grant County Extension Office

Meeting called by	Matt Rehani	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Joan Bacon, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Matt Rehani, Cheryl Roth, Donna Tillmann, Laurie Wlosinski
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

AGENDA TOPICS

Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Matt Rehani

No changes or additions, so kudos to the president!

Approval of minutes | Presenter Matt Rehani

No changes or additions, so kudos to the secretary!

Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

Dave reported two donations totaling \$734.09 for the September-October period. Expenses for the same period came to \$744.67 and represented reimbursements. These items left the chapter with \$20,632.05 in checking and \$15,782.47 in savings.

Membership remains steady at 56 members, from which we can conclude that nobody is skipping out on us.

GCSAR Activity | Presenter Laurie Wlosinski/Russ Imler

In the manner of weird stuff that happens in the Gila, many of us followed (with quivering hearts) the saga of a horseman and a pack horse, who were traveling up a trail off the Gila Middle Fork. The horse took a tumble into a crevice and got stuck for about three days. The horseman's wife pleaded with Grant County Search and Rescue (and every other able-bodied person from neighbors to law enforcement) for assistance. GCSAR couldn't assist, being for the search and rescue of human animals only, but no matter because some empathetic rancher/horseman/livestock type individual eventually tugged the horse out of the crevice. The horse, being thirsty, took off. The gathered not-GCSAR people caught the horse about two miles away, in a chase reminiscent of silent-era filmage (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hwyUezj9cks>) that the ancient among us might remember and suggesting how a horse gets stuck upside down in a wilderness crevice. For three days.

GCSAR responded to a mission (for which they are authorized to respond by the way) for somebody up on Turkey Feather Mountain. The subject was able to walk out, however, and a helicopter from Albuquerque was turned back.

GCSAR, always on top of the management of new and strange equipment and respected by everybody, assisted the National Park Service (NPS), which acquired a litter just like the one GCSAR has and requested operating instruction from GCSAR. GCSAR met the NPS people up at the Gila Cliff Dwellings and showed the NPS what's what.

GCSAR has a bunch of new members, who will participate in a Saturday night special training at a location to be determined. Night trainings separate the members who think they want to be part of search and rescue from the members who actually do, so the bunch of new people might be diminished in the near future.

BCHNM Update | Presenter Joan Bacon, Cheryl Roth

Joan and Cheryl reported on the results of the statewide BCHNM rendezvous, to which nobody from GBCH attended, but to which the Gila chapter did donate an item for the rendezvous raffle. Other than that, the only big rendezvous news is the chapter to be bedeviled by the 2024 event, proposed for Gallup at the moment, but which might change due to influential people in competitive other New Mexico chapters.

Public Service/Communications | Presenter Nobody in particular

Melissa Green and Gerry Engel, who would normally report on this stuff, were up on Tadpole Ridge trying to salvage something of that beleaguered trail along with others from Melissa’s collection of trail-crazed volunteers.

Here’s what’s still on the 2023 trail work schedule:

- Tadpole Ridge Oct 11-14 (map on page 3)
- Little Whitewater Oct 19-23 (map on page 3)
- Cooper Trail Oct 26-Nov 1 (map on page 4)

Note about Cooper Trail: The work described in the 2023 trail project schedule (see page 4) began at the end of September, when five GBCH members logged trails along and around Iron Mesa. This phase follows up on that project.

Officer Elections in November | Presenter Matt Rehani

If you’re dissatisfied with the work your current GBCH officers are doing on behalf of the Gila chapter, your chance to make things right is coming up at the next meeting. Please send your nominations (for yourself or some other unsuspecting victim) right away to Matt Rehani so he gets them in time for the November meeting, at which voting on your preferred choices will occur. Matt will be sending an email (including job descriptions) to this effect shortly. December meeting date to be determined. Matt sends email announcing nominations and date to respond

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Nominate new officers!	Everybody	To be announced

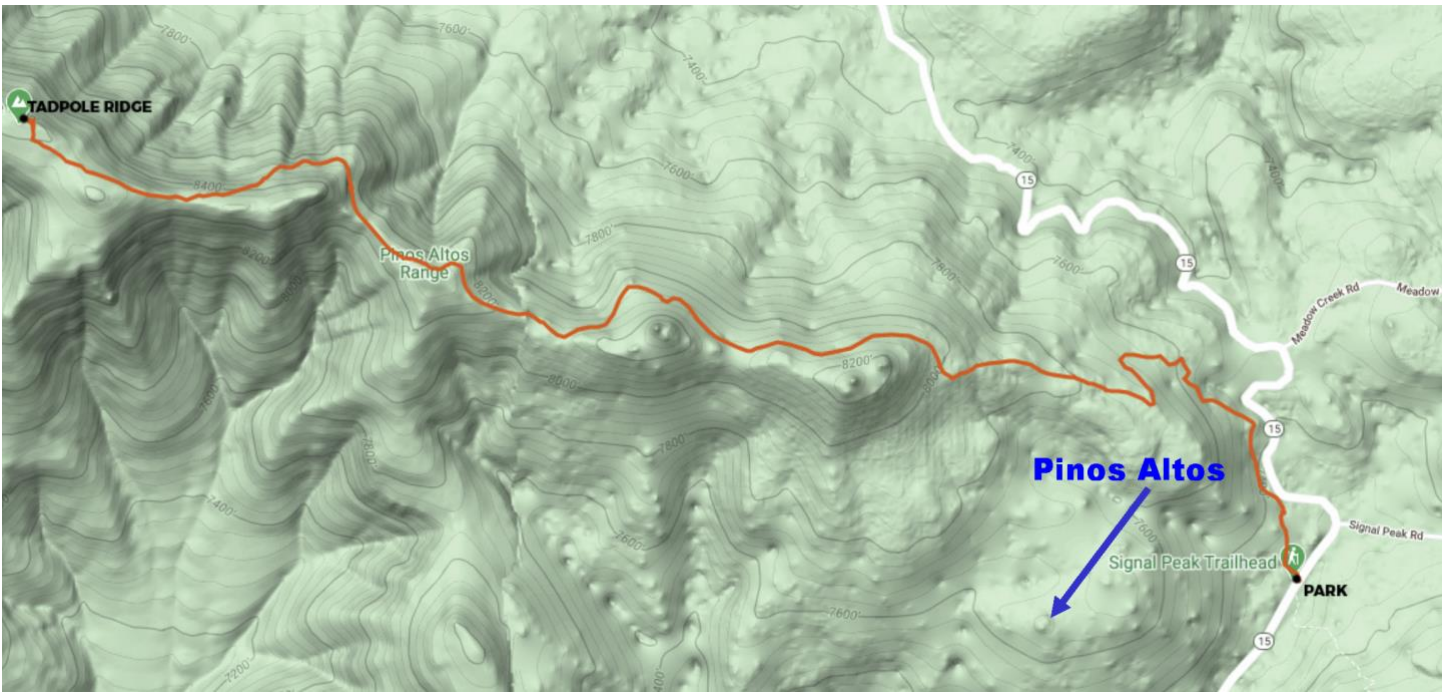
Holiday Party | Presenter Matt Rehani

The Gila chapter will hold a winter party in January (tentative date is Saturday, January 13, 2024, and will take place of the December 2023 business meeting. The event will be catered. The location will be announced as soon as we figure out who has room for us.

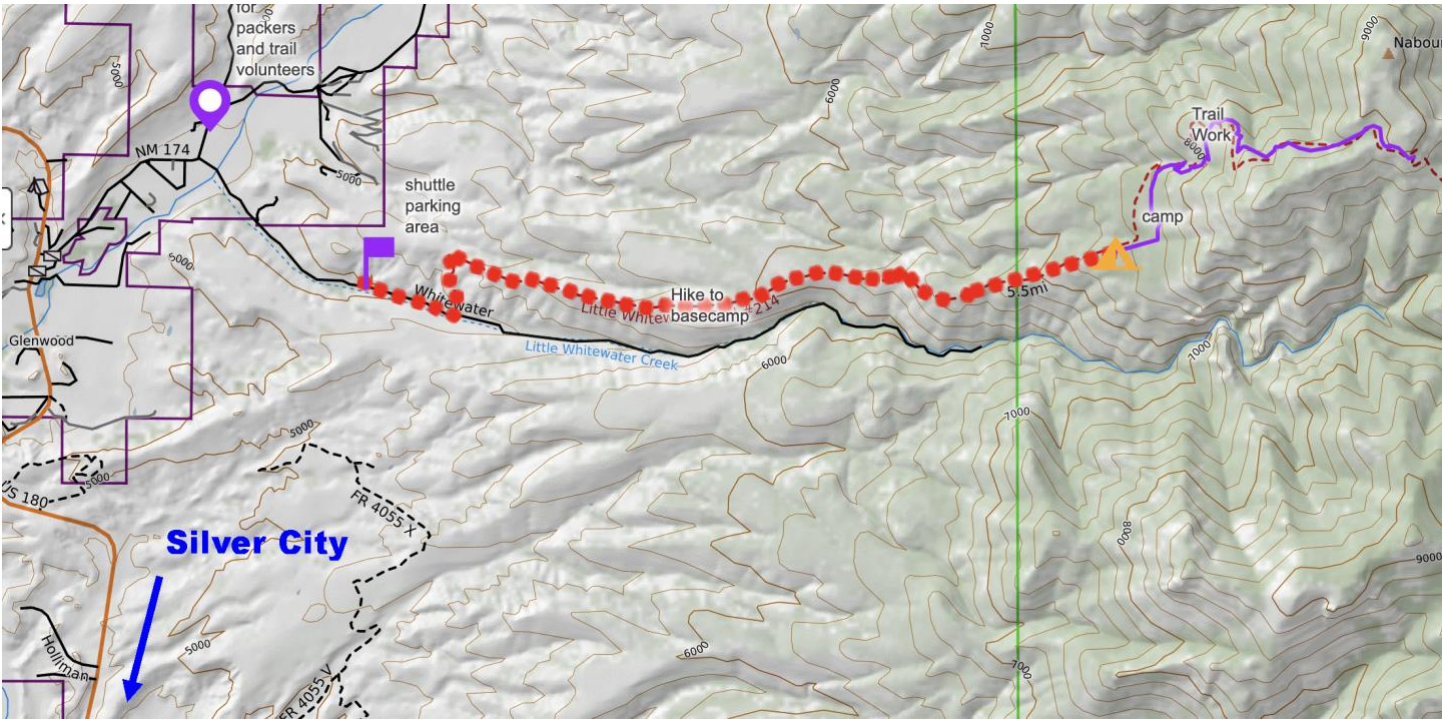
More about Tadpole Ridge | Presenter Donna Tillmann

Thinking about riding on the Tadpole Ridge trail soon? The trail, with its narrow sidehill path along the north face of the ridge (observe contour lines on the map on the next page), is crumbly, especially on the downslope side. Donna reports that the trail is unsuitable for stock at the moment. If you must go up there with your beloved equine, watch out for unstable turf, and be prepared to crash down into the trees. If no trees block your fall, plan to roll down to Sheep Corral Road and to use your inReach satellite communicator (<https://www.garmin.com/en-US/c/outdoor-recreation/satellite-communicators/>) to summon help. You have been appropriately advised.

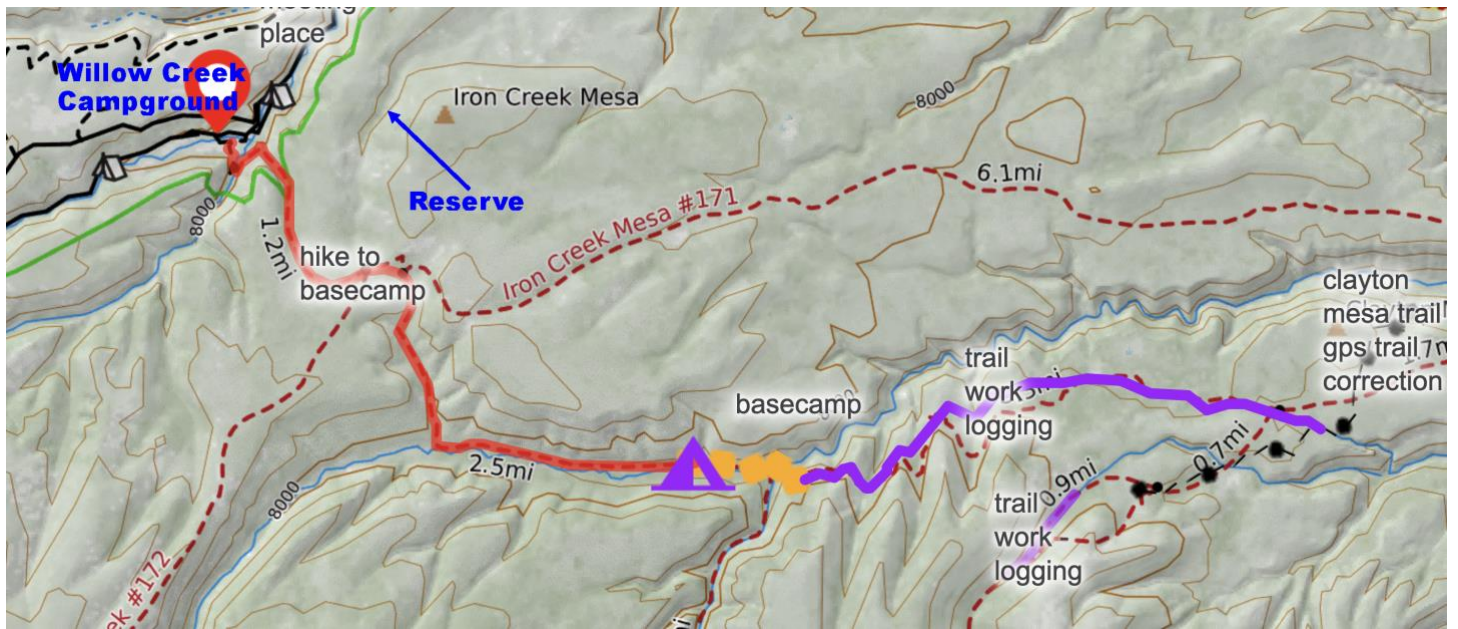
Tadpole Ridge Trail (source: <https://www.stavislost.com/hikes/trail/tadpole-ridge/map>)



Little Whitewater Phase 1 (source: Melissa Green via CalTopo)



Cooper Trail (source Melissa Green via CalTopo)



COOPER TRAIL # 141

Dates: Oct 27th – Nov 1, 2023

Trail Work: logging & minor trail marking & tread.

Project Difficulty: Moderate

Map of project: <https://caltopo.com/m/6FG59>

Hike to basecamp: 3.6

Hike during the day: up to 7 miles

[Project Details](#)

