

# Gila Chapter

## Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

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Meeting date | time 3/8/2023 6:00 PM | Meeting location Watts Hall

Meeting called by Matt Rehani

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Katherin Carter (guest speaker), Zach Carter (guest speaker), Cindi deCapiteau, Phil Dendel, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Gerry Engel, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Gary Latson, Lola Latson, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Matt Rehani, Diane Shriner, Jerry Shriner

### AGENDA TOPICS

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Agenda topic Recognize guests and new members | Presenter Matt Rehani

Welcome to our newest members, Gary Latson and Lola Latson, and also to this evening's guest speakers, Kathrin and Zack Carter, the new owners of AAA trailers, in Arenas Valley.

Matt noted that there's a big trail project going on right now up on the White Rocks/Cassidy Trails (map on page 5).

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Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Matt Rehani

GBCH is getting crowded out of our current meeting place in Watts Hall. Added to the agenda tonight is a discussion about finding a new place to hold our momentous monthly meetings.

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Approval of minutes | Presenter Matt Rehani

A tragic error exists in the GBCH minutes for February 2023. The Grant County Give Grandly event occurs on is May 6 not March 6. The secretary apologizes for confusion presented by months beginning with the letter M.

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Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

From the GBCH cash register:

- Expenses
  - federal taxes
  - credit cards
  - Give Grandly registration fee
  - Donation to The Commons (for use of facility during January 2023 GBCH meeting)
- Balances
  - Checking: \$42,914.29
  - Ameritrade account: \$30,112.49

Membership

- Total 62 members.
- Kenley Burnsdale (from Colorado) is a new member



Zack and Kathrin Carter from AAA Trailer joined us to provide advice and knowledge about major items of trailer maintenance. Here's what they recommend we pay attention to annually:

- Wheel bearings
- Tire wear – uneven or excessive wear means an axle needs attention. Dry rot means it's time to replace the tires to avoid a blow-out.
- Brakes, wheels and emergency (breakaway).
- Emergency brake battery. The lifespan of this battery is

typically three to four years. It is supposed to be automatically recharged by the tow vehicle or a system in the trailer itself, but sometimes the system doesn't work. If the battery dies too often, there's a problem. Verify the battery strength with a voltage checker.

- Trailer power cable. If the cable is damaged test the system by activating the trailer brakes to test the connection. Make sure cable is installed and plugged in properly. If the cable isn't right, running lights and turn signals might not work.
- Running lights that don't work might be caused by a blown fuse on the tow vehicle.
- Deck boards. Pull the floor mats and check the underlying boards for rot and damage.
- Roof maintenance. Skylights, vents and other openings on the roof (seams) need to be checked for leaks. If the roof is black, it's time for a recoat.
- Hitch receiver. The pin receptacle can become misshapen from wear and tear. AAA can fix the problem, often by welding the hole to 5/8", thereby restoring an elongated pin hole to its round shape.
- Other AAA services
  - Generator parts and service
  - Refrigerator repair
  - Diagnose and repair issues with the tow vehicle
  - Install trailer hitches (fifth-wheel and receiver hitches)
  - Trailer and truck accessories, including running boards, batteries, bed covers
- Prices
  - Bearings replaced at \$95/axel, plus \$85/hour for labor
- Appointments
  - AAA is booked up for the rest of March 2023
  - Call 575-388-1919 to schedule your trailer for service

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GCSAR Activity | Presenter Laurie Wlosinski

Not much going on in search and rescue, at least not until today. Something is going on now at the Cliff Dwellings—somebodies from Texas—a group of kids and adults. No other details available.

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Public Service/Communications | Presenter Gerry Engel

**Where's Melissa?** Gerry advised that Melissa Green and a couple of other trail worthies like Cheryl Roth are clearing the trail on a multi-day project at White Rocks (see page 5). Melissa reports that the work is going well.

GBCH has several future projects in the campfire, although most are being re-scheduled because, you know, weather. (Please refer to the [current trail schedule](#) for dates and details.)

**Money and stuff.** The Gila chapter has some grant proposals in the works, but we won't belabor the details right now, except for this one:

**Great American Outdoors Act.** The volunteer agreement is being processed for the \$100K from the GAO). This impressive largess from taxpayers and lawmakers will be spent to un-defer historically deferred-maintenance trails in the Gila. Sometimes GBCH is pressed to allocate all the funds from a particular grant within the time specified, but that's not the case with the GAOA money. We can undertake projects supported by this grant over several years. The money is just for GBCH to use; not sharing it with any other entity. It's a lot of bucks and we can accomplish good things with it. (See the [trail schedule](#) for details.)

**Trails.** At some point before the desert mountains get too hot, a cool project outside Glenwood NM will proceed after being cancelled (scheduled for March 25). GBCH riders plan to go out and clear the big logs, while the hikers brush and clear smaller stuff from the trail. It's supposed to be a one-day detail, but Glenwood being a fur distance from most places, GBCH workers can drive up the day before and camp at Glenwood Community Park. The park has no corrals, but we have permission to use the arena there to secure livestock. The project will employ crosscut saw only.

**Sawyer certifications.** It's a little bit tricky to administer training certification for GBCH sawyers. Two certifications are required:

- Sawyer certifications (crosscut and chainsaw) are valid for three years.
- A current certification in first aid, an honor valid for just two years. The USFS puts on a one-day first aid class but the Service has no such classes scheduled and the safety officer has moved on to other logs. Alternatives exist, such Wilderness 1<sup>st</sup> Aid (for first responders) at WNMU. Gerry will follow up.

For chainsaws, everybody who uses one in the forest has to be certified. For crosscut saw, one person on the saw must be certified, but lacking that, a crosscut-certified individual on hand suffices. The USFS sawyer certification course (which they need to do soon), consists of a three-day block of classroom lecture, followed by field work with real live saws and how to use them and maintain them safely.

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### Action items

### Person responsible

Follow up on sawyer and first aid training

Gerry Engel

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### Continental Divide Trail Days | Presenter Joan Bacon

Continental Divide Trail (CDT) Days is an annual three-day celebration of Silver City's status as the country's first gateway community for the CDT. GBCH participates in the festival with the Forest Service and offers cookie branding<sup>1</sup> to anybody who wants to try out a crosscut saw. Trail Days begins on Saturday, April 22, 2023. The event features a party at [Little Toad Creek Brewery & Distillery](#), outdoor activities vendors in Gough Park, guided hikes, contests, cookie branding, and contests. Click [here](#) for the schedule.

GBCH will staff a booth on April 22. Doug will contact the authorities about requirements for booth volunteers, operating hours, etc. Gerry will call Kyle to see if GBCH can share booth space with USFS. Gerry and Doug will keep each other informed about what they discover.

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### Action items

### Person responsible

Keep in touch about Trail Days developments

Doug Dexter, Gerry Engel

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<sup>1</sup> Cookie branding: An exercise in which participants use a crosscut saw to carve off a slice from one end of a log. Then they get to use a hot branding iron (GBCH and USFS brands) to sear the charred logo into the log slice (the "cookie"). They get to keep the cookie and everybody is happy about that. Plus the air smells of smoky pine pitch.

**Action items**

**Person responsible**

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Volunteer to set up the GBCH booth beginning at 7:00 a.m. Saturday All members

Sign up to staff the booth for a two-hour shift (9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) Includes answering questions, keeping an eye on things, and possibly cookie branding. All members

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**Agenda topic** *Give Grandly* | **Presenter** *Matt Rehani*

Give Grandly, the annual opportunity to send money to your favorite Grant County nonprofit organizations, occurs online over several days in May. An in-person event, during which visitors can talk to representatives of and learn about these organizations, will happen May 6, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. GBCH will have a booth and cookie branding throughout the day.

**Action items**

**Person responsible**

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As with Trail Days (see above), GBCH needs volunteers to set up and staff our booth. All members

Contact Matt Rehani or Doug Dexter to join in, have some laughs, and earn your brownie points. Cookie branding will be featured. Contact Doug Dexter or Matt Rehani to sign up.

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**Agenda topic** *Announcements* |

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 12, 2023, location to be determined

