

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

11/8/2023 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, Dixie Dexter, Gerry Engel, Melissa Green, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Esker Maybury (guest), Matt Rehani, Cheryl Roth
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

AGENDA TOPICS

Recognize guests and new members | Presenter Matt Rehani

Esker Maybury (Mayberry?) joined us to check out who we are, what we do, and how we get along. Welcome Esker!

Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Matt Rehani

No changes

Approval of minutes | Presenter Matt Rehani

The assembled masses approved the chapter's minutes from the October 2023 meeting.

Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

Dave reported on the addition to the chapter coffers of \$18,303.29 from the Feds, along with donations of \$75 from grateful community members. Expenses for the last period amounted to \$17,627.43 for mileage and the usual outlays for trail projects. Bank balances were:

\$21,707.29 (savings)

\$15,728.56 (checking)

Membership stands at 56.

Membership renewal time is upon us. Members can renew any time between now and January 2024. Current members do not need to fill out a new application form; sending dues in will suffice. At the moment, dues for the coming year are the same as 2023:

Individuals: \$20

Family: \$30

Make out your check and mail it to:

Gila Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico

PO Box 533

Silver City NM 88062

Word on the street is that dues increases for BCHNM and BCHA are lurking in financial corners, with an intention to take more grit out of your pocket. There's no information about how much or when, but now that you know of

these nefarious plots, you won't be surprised when GBCH dues also increase. The GBCH treasurer pays chapter dues to the state and national organizations, so all you'll be responsible for is to include the additional money with your GBCH dues, whatever that turns out to be.

Agenda topic *Elections of Officers* | **Presenter** *Matt Rehani*

Somebody has to run the show (in our case, that would be the GBCH officers and representatives), so our big shots get elected every year. Nobody outside of the current slate expressed any interest in controlling our vast resources, thrilling activities, and social responsibilities; most of the current board of directors carries on.

Last month, Matt distributed an email that announced nominations along with a description of the responsibilities of each officer. Even though everybody received and read Matt's message, Matt read that information for those of us with short memories.

In a nod to parliamentary procedures, the meeting attendees voted unanimously to re-elect each of the following officers, who comprise the chapter's board of directors:

- President: Matt Rehani
- Vice President: Rawlings Lemon¹
- Secretary: Cindi deCapiteau²
- Treasurer: Dave Imler³
- State BCHNM representatives⁴: Joan Bacon
Cheryl Roth
- Director at large: Gerry Engel⁵

Matt gently announced for the benefit of GBCH members who seek greater involvement in the work of our indispensable organization and the stellar work it performs that being on the board of directors is a satisfying endeavor, particularly for its attendant power and glory.

A GBCH position, education chair, will continue to be filled by Cheryl Roth.

Action items	Person responsible
Pay attention to the chapter's activities. Attend the monthly business meetings. Read the minutes. Consider running for office in 2025.	All members

BCHNM Update | **Presenter** *Joan Bacon, Cheryl Roth*

The next meeting of BCHNM will be held in January 2024.

¹ Meeting attendees nominated Rawlings Lemon to replace Dixie Dexter as vice president. Rawlings' nomination was enthusiastically endorsed by Mickey Lemon in a strategy to get him out of the house.

² Cindi is perfectly happy to let somebody else take over the secretary's job, but there were no takers.

³ Dave would also be pleased to give up his fiduciary responsibilities and will be happy to train his replacement.

⁴ Joan and Cheryl expressed delight at being re-elected.

⁵ Now that Gerry has the capable and enthusiastic support of Melissa Green to handle trail projects, he has no objection to assuming any duties assigned by the chapter president.

Trail Projects | Presenter Melissa Green

Melissa reported the chapter’s trail statistics to date for 2023:

- 60 miles of work on deferred trails⁶
- 126 miles of regular trail maintenance⁷
- 5,867 volunteer hours
- 1,795 logs cleared
- 685 meals prepared for trail workers

Not too bad for a bunch of creaky retired people.

Melissa noted that projects are waiting in the wings for November and December and she will announce them shortly. She also requested feedback about the quality, quantity, and nature of the trail projects from anybody who has opinions/ideas.

Melissa commented that the popular and well-established accounting software, QuickBooks (<https://quickbooks.intuit.com/>) has an online version that could support recordkeeping and reporting on trail volunteer hours, mileage, expenses, income, invoicing, etc. Dave noted that he doesn’t need it for his purposes as treasurer, but if the software could facilitate grant reporting for Melissa, it’s worth looking into. Melissa’s proposal is for planning purposes at the moment and she will provide more information at the February 2024 meeting.

Action items	Person responsible
Prepare trail schedule for November and December	Melissa Green
Contact Melissa to share your views about trail work	Everybody
Investigate costs and procedures for the use of QuickBooks	Dave, Melissa

New Year Party | Presenter Matt Rehani

GBCH has traditionally held a party at the end of the calendar year. In 2023, the party occurred in January and everybody who attended thought that was just peachy, given the demands of the traditional December holiday season. So here we are, planning to repeat 2023’s delightful event by holding a GBCH member gathering as follows:



Saturday, January 13, 2024



Grant County Convention Center (US 180 West, next to Ace Hardware)



Time to be determined

⁶ Trails categorized as deferred maintenance are those that are log-and-brush-filled hulks on which no work has been completed for at least five years. Opening up 60 miles of these trails is impressive and everybody should be like really proud!

⁷ These are trails worked on previously, but on which annoying new trees have fallen or thoughtless wet weather has undone some of the earlier work.



Menu to be determined

Menu cost to be determined

At a cost of \$125 for the day, Doug Dexter has reserved a room at the Convention Center. He requested \$250 to cover a deposit for the room, which will be refunded if we clean up after ourselves, which of course we will. The deposit is payable immediately. The room rental is payable on January 13, 2024.

The event planners estimate a charge of \$10 per person, payable at the door or along with the GBCH dues (payable now for 2024); GBCH will pick up any cost beyond that received at the door.

The event will probably be catered by Q's Southern Bistro. Doug and Matt will organize.

The event will serve as the GBCH meeting for January 2024.

The Forest Service, packers, and hikers who participated in trail work in 2023 will be invited. Matt will coordinate the guest list with Melissa. Matt will extend invitations with an RSVP request for a head count.

Action items	Person responsible
\$250 deposit check for Grant County Convention Center	Doug, Matt, Dave
Get 3-4 proposed menus from Q's.	Doug, Matt
Invite Forest Service, packers, hikers to attend the event	Matt, Melissa

Announcements |

Next Meeting: January 13, 2024, Grant County Convention Center, time to be announced. No meeting in December 2023.