

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 2/9/2022 6:00 PM | Meeting location Zoom

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Melissa Green, Andrea Imler, Dave Imler, Russ Imler, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Nancy Imler, Charlen Perez, Matt Rehani, Cheryl Roth, George Siavalis, Teresa Smergut, Nathan Williams, Laurie Wlosinski

AGENDA TOPICS

Call to order | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug, eager to get started, kept calling the meeting to order starting at 5:49. He completed the matter promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Doug Dexter

A few changes to the agenda will be reflected in these minutes.

Approval of minutes | Presenter Doug Dexter

The members present approved the minutes from the January meeting.

Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

Income: Received \$16,555.47

Outgo:

- Zoom subscription
- Place mats
- Workers' compensation insurance
- Invoice from Melissa for last fall's trail work (paid from grant monies)

Outstanding:

- Reimbursement request (on hold pending return of documents from CPA)
- Twenty-dollar deposit showed up on checking account bank statement. Doug will provide documentation.

Membership:

- At the time of this meeting, the chapter has 47 paid members.
- We have a new family membership, Jerry and Diane Shriner.
- Send Shriner's email address to Vicki, who hopes to tap them for NAN Ranch Ride service.
- Several active GBCH members haven't renewed for this year. Dave will nag them by email in March with the warning that their names will be removed from the roster if they don't pay up. Need to do this now because state and national dues are paid in March; and we don't want to count people who haven't paid.

Publicity | Presenter Vicki Dowd

Melissa's article in *Desert Exposure* was really good. Read it at <https://www.desertexposure.com/stories/ready-for-adventure,9893>

Public Service/Communications | Presenter Gerry Engel

A buncha GBCH members impressed the USFS with our work ethic. Nine of us braved a ¼" of dust and piles of rat poop to clean up the barn at Gila Center, which hadn't received a woman's touch in decades.

The District ranger (Henry Provencio—at least for now) was there to help.

For our part, this effort to help out the Forest Service presents an opportunity to use the facility at the Gila Center (real close to the Gila Cliff Dwellings). If, for example, Woody's Corral isn't suitable for us when we need a base camp, we can use the facility down the road and across the river. We won't need to defend our space there against marauding visitors because 100% access is for GBCH alone. So there!

Need a list of BCH people to acknowledge in these minutes. Melissa has already sent a thank you message to them.

Finally, Gerry admonishes that everybody needs to visit our website (<https://www.gilabch.org/>). It's really spiffy and while you're there, you can peruse our list of projects (<https://www.gilabch.org/trail-projects>). Then, naturally, you can find out when and where you can savor the energy of being outdoors and working hard for admirable purposes. And you can sign up through the website.

Action items

Person responsible

Send to Cindi and Doug the list of GBCH members who helped at the barn cleanup	Melissa Green
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GCSAR Activity | Presenter Andrea Imler

Search and rescue has been really quiet for several months . . . until last week in the Florida Mountains (those jaggy crags east of Deming) when a guy fell and broke his wrist and wasn't feeling too good.

Twenty-eight rescuers showed up¹ to walk the guy out.

NATRC Update | Presenter Vicki Dowd

Volunteer workers

Vicki has sent out a request for volunteers and she's had a good response². She expressed thanks to everybody.

The Lineup so far:

- U Charlen Perez, ride secretary, managing her duties remotely. Cannot be present at the ride.
- U Maria Longton, on-site secretary
- U Susan Dent, vet judge
- U Rawlings Lemon, vet chauffeur
- U Lynn Ward, horsemanship judge, coming from Arizona

¹ Proving yet again the motivational energy of a long bout of inactivity.

² But some positions still need you (yes, YOU) to fill them. Details below.

- U Carrie Bearup, horsemanship judge secretary
- U Dean Bearup, horsemanship judge driver
- U P&R crew:
 - o Cathy Sidak
 - o Cathy Brett
 - o Joan Bacon
 - o Bob Hall
 - o Lee Perry
 - o Jayne Hempstead
 - o Dixie Dexter
 - o Mary Gates
 - o Linda Beatty
- U Drivers:
 - o Bob Hall
 - o Jayne Hempstead
 - o Rawlings Lemon
 - o Dave Imler
- U Gatekeepers:
 - o Doug Dexter, gate coordinator.
 - o Kristen Munsen (also working on food)
 - o Cassie Carver
- U Safety riders:
 - o Cindi deCapiteau
 - o April Matthews
- U Food preparation:³
 - o Nancy Trimble
 - o Michelle Kennedy
 - o Mickey Lemon is shopping for all the volunteer food
 - o Nancy Imler will keep casseroles.
 - o Vicki will make sure oven at the NAN Ranch Lodge works
- U Ride starter: Doug Dexter
- U Camp cleanup: Vicki Dowd

Workers still needed:

- U Secretary for vet judge
- U A few more P&R people to serve as backup
- U Weigh master (records rider weight before and after the ride)
- U Weigh master's scale
- U Parking director
- U Lunch drivers (uses personal ATV or 4WD drive vehicle to ferry lunches to contestants) Also keeps track of contestants' time into the lunch site. Notifies individuals when 45 minutes is up so they can resume the ride)

³ At this ride, we are providing meals for only the workers and judges

Trails and gates:

- U Vicki has begun marking the trails
- U Ranch gates now have combination locks
- U Ride management will try to get the gates open a day or two early

Camping:

- U Workers and judges do not pay a camping fee
- U Camping fee for riders is built into the entry fee
- U Camping will be at the ride camp

Vicki has a list of needs, which she will provide to Doug for transmission to the ride audience.

Tangentially . . .

The Gila chapter received an invite to participate in this year's Trails Days festival, but that event occurs at the same time as the NAN Ranch Ride. We can't do both, so Doug will respectfully decline the invitation.

Action items

Person responsible

Send list of unmet needs to Doug

Vicki Dowd

Transmit unmet needs list to ride audience

Doug Dexter

Packing Demo | Presenter Cheryl Roth

As mentioned in last month's minutes, GBCH is sponsoring a packing demo on [April 2, 2022](#), at the rodeo grounds just east of Silver City on US 180.

Cheryl sleuthed out whether or not we need insurance for the upcoming event. She talked with Dick Rahal (a mover and shaker with BCHNM), who asserts that no insurance is required unless the venue requests it.

If insurance is requested (contact Kim Clark to find out) GBCH would contact Dick, who will authorize us to use BCHNM insurance.

We will ask participants to sign a waiver in the form of a sign-in sheet that Dave is creating and which will bear the text of the New Mexico equestrian facilities law similar to this one:

https://aces.nmsu.edu/academics/anrs/documents/liability_waiver19.pdf

Sign-making workshop | Presenter Melissa Green

Direction and mileage signs in the Gila require considerable maintenance. USFS set up a workshop to prepare such signage this week, so it will be all over by the time you read this (although it was advertised on Facebook).

The effort is being supported by a sufficient number of people, so you're off the hook if you couldn't show up.

Trail food | Presenter Mickey Lemon, Melissa Green

According to Mickey Lemon, the endeavor to make sure no trail worker goes unfed is on track, providing everybody does what they said they would do.⁴

⁴ Which we know they will

Credit card

As the Gila Chapter wanders into the age of serious accounting and reporting requirements (because we are now a 501(c)(3) organization), Dave Imler needs to keep bookkeeping as simple as possible. The CPA opines that a number of purchases for goods and services could be handled via a credit card, with the benefit that the transactions pass directly from the vendor to the chapter's books.

Dave has applied for, but has not yet received, the aforesaid *tarjeta de crédito*, but when the card(s) (multiple cards, one account) arrive, one is given each to Gerry and Melissa, our trustworthy organizers of people and materiel, who can use them to spend \$ on anything except salary.

Dave offered a credit card to Cheryl Roth and Joan Bacon (representatives to BCHNM, who incur travel expenses every quarter to drive Socorro for the meeting of the BCHNM board of directors). Cheryl and Joan declined and said they will submit receipts for reimbursement.

Expense reimbursements

Rawlings Lemon has been pondering reimbursements for travel. He proposed a reimbursement rate of 1.5 times the cost of fuel for any person who takes their vehicle to BCH-related meetings.

After heming and hawing about it for several minutes, we settled on the assertion that as long as we're reimbursing people for travel expenses, nobody is required to report the money as income. So if you want to be reimbursed for mileage, need to report the mileage. Rawlings is ok with that.

Give Grandly | Presenter Gerry Engel

Give Grandly (GG), he annual fundraising drive for qualified organizations, is coming up. Should GBCH participate? According to Gerry and Melissa, who sat in on an organizing meeting, discovered that:

- U The participation fee is \$100 this year.
- U The location is downtown Silver City, at the Main Street Plaza.
- U The sting comes out of the participation fee if an organization's received donations (via GG) total \$500 or more. In that case, GG provides a matching donation of \$500.
- U The maximum donation received in 2021 by a participating organization was around \$13,000.
- U Need a volunteer to coordinate the effort for GBCH because trail projects will be underway and the usual movers and shakers will be otherwise occupied.
- U The durable and cheerful Doug Dexter signed on for the job. Others? Please join Doug so he won't be lonely.
- U Organizations must sign up to participate by March 31, 2022.
- U If you have worked with or have useful information about a past public Give Grandly event in Silver City, please contact Gerry Engel. He hopes to determine (at least) an approximate number of people who come through, in order to also determine if it's worth it for GBCH in terms of publicity and funds generated.

Looking to make a GBCH branding iron.

Action items

Person responsible

Keep investigating costs and benefits of Give Grandly.

Gerry and all his helpers

Talk to Gerry Engel if you can help, especially with knowledge of past GG events.

Gerry's helpers

Highway cleanup | Presenter Matt Rehani

Matt has scheduled a highway cleanup detail for March 24 9:00 a.m.

- U What: Pick up roadside trash on US 180 between mile markers 108 and 109.
- U Where: Meet at Wind Canyon fire station, at US 180 West and Truck Bypass Road.
- U Contact [Matt](#) know if you interested.
- U Matt will send out an email reminder in advance.

Action items

Person responsible

Send out email reminder for participants to clean up after the litterbugs.

Mat Rehani

Request for donations | Presenter Vicki Dowd

A sad incident occurred for Yvonne Kropf, a friend of several GBCH members and an executive of the Las Cruces Horsemen's Association. A barn fire consumed the entire structure and everything in it.

Several GBCH members have already stepped up with donations, but everyone has an opportunity to help out. Yvonne's facility needs everything: grooming tools, halters, a riding crop, fly masks, horse blankets, saddles.

Charlen Perez is coordinating donations. Email Charlen at charlensvc@gmail.com to inquire about further donations.

Action items

Person responsible

Gather up donations and get them to Yvonne Kropf

Everybody

Announcements |

Next Meeting: March 9, 2022