

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

11/19/2024 6:00 PM | Grant County Extension Office

Meeting called by	Matt Rehani	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Lanay Addy, Joan Bacon, Mary Crow, Kyle Darnell, Cindi deCapiteau, Gerry Engel, Melissa Green, Becky Harrington, Jean Hill, Lynette Perrault Holguin, Rubin Holguin, Andrea Imler, Dave Imler, Michelle McGorky, Richelle Price, Matt Rehani, Cheryl Roth, Donna Tillmann, Laurie Wlosinski
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

AGENDA TOPICS

Call to order | Presenter Matt Rehani

Matt Rehani called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. while the assembled masses chomped on pizza, brought in for this meeting.

Recognize guests and new members | Presenter Matt Rehani

Look at all the new faces tonight! Welcome to:

- Lanay Addy has a quarter horse/TWH. She can ride for two or three hours and her spirited horse probably needs conditioning. She also has extra horses that need to be ridden.
- Kyle Darnell Kyle has been packing in the Black Range, has experience with mules and a donkey as well as with horses. Kyle has been packing for the US Forest Service and the New Mexico conservation Corps. Kyle's mule is named Big Bertha.
- Becky Harrington and her husband were outfitters and cooks in the Bob Marshall wilderness. Becky hopes to get back on a horse soon. She has lots of experience.
- Lynette Perrault Holguin, who is an accountant
- Rubin Holguin used to be a Hot Shot and an EMT-B

We hope to see a lot of you in the coming trail season! Meanwhile, make sure Matt Rehani has your email address.

Action items

Person responsible

Sign up for trail projects. See the 2025 spring project schedule at https://www.gilabch.org/trail-projects	All members, new and old
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Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

Dave Imler advised that income to date in November was \$100 from the Mogollon Look ut (Sara Irving) and \$50 from Cindy Vaught. GBCH expenses for the period totaled \$11,122.11. Bank balances: Checking \$83,743.03 and savings, \$101,103.

The Gila chapter has 53 members.

BCHNM has asked for information about the income from the 2024 Rendezvous, and in particular the amount the Gila chapter will send to the state after our Rendezvous expenses are subtracted from the total. It appears that the 2024 Rendezvous enjoyed higher totals than the organization has received in prior years.

Gerry Engel provided an overview of BCHA, BCHNM, and the New Mexico chapters. He explained what work is done at each level and listed the NM chapter names (you can review them at <http://www.bchnm.org/>). The Gila chapter, Gerry noted, is the state's largest in terms of membership. He added that the chapter's trail work is accomplished by both chapter members and non-members. GBCH provides food and water for trail projects, for which supplies are packed in by chapter members and private outfitters.

The Gila chapter worked on over 180 miles of trail in 2024, work that was organized by Melissa Green, the chapter's trail work coordinator. Since GBCH is a nonprofit organization, we receive money from grants for which Melissa applies. We also receive money from BCHNM. The Gila chapter reimburses packers at the rate of \$25/day when their animals are active, as well as an additional \$10/day if animals stay in camp (some packers unload at the project camp and ride back out, in which case they don't get the additional \$10/day. Trail workers (both hikers and riders) are reimbursed for the mileage they accrue when traveling to a project's staging area.

Trail workers serve as volunteers for the US Forest Service, under the leadership of Melissa Green. Melissa also reports on trail work, with maps where projects occur and locations of water. She helps with trip planning, keeps track of the trails cleared, and trail conditions. You can view this information at <https://www.gilabch.org/>.

Action items

Person responsible

Review the 2025 spring project schedule and sign up to participate All members

Agenda topic *Officer Elections* | Presenter *Matt Rehani*

We voted on chapter officers this evening.

President: Cheryl Roth was nominated by Donna Tillmann to replace Matt Rehani, who has stepped down as chapter president. The vote to install Cheryl as the new president was unanimous.

Vice President: Gerry Engel was nominated to take over as vice president as Rawlings Lemon has stepped down. The vote in Gerry's favor was unanimous. Gerry noted that he's willing to take the job, but advised that his simultaneous position of Director at Large gives him two votes on matters addressed by the GBCH Board of Directors. Nobody expressed any concern about the extra power Gerry now wields.

Treasurer: Dave Imler accepted the nomination and subsequent unanimous vote to serve as GBCH's meticulous treasurer, but he notes that if anybody is interested in the job, let us know. Training will be provided for the incoming treasurer.

Secretary: Cindi deCapiteau accepted the nomination and unanimous vote to continue as GBCH secretary for 2025.

Director-at-Large: Gerry accepted the nomination and unanimous vote for his continued service in his current role, but he will be looking for someone to serve as director-at-large.

State Representatives: Joan Bacon and Cheryl Roth will continue as representatives to the quarterly meetings of BCHNM.

Education Coordinator: Most GBCH business meetings feature an education segment that deals with concerns about horses and mules, trail safety, horse packing, first aid, flora and fauna in the Gila, and other topics of interest to us rugged horsey types. Mary Crow has volunteered to serve as education coordinator for 2025.

Action items

Person responsible

Consider serving as GBCH treasurer or secretary, as the people now holding those positions are willing to step down.

Any GBCH member in good standing

Grant County Search and Rescue Update | Presenter Laurie Wlosinski, Russ Imler

Laurie Wlosinski noted that search and rescue has been quiet so far, but tradition says to expect activity around Thanksgiving.

Public Service | Presenter Gerry Engel, Melissa Green

Melissa Green mentioned that the spring 2025 project schedule has been released (you can review it at <https://www.gilabch.org/>). Melissa encouraged us to review the schedule and she also described areas where work will happen.

GBCH plans trail projects for the spring and fall seasons and publishes the schedule on the website. The schedules provide information about the trails to be addressed. The schedules are coordinated with the US Forest Service. See <https://www.gilabch.org/trail-projects> for information about registering for trail projects.

Gerry Engel noted that changes sometimes occur in the project schedule due to weather and stuff like that. Any changes are reflected on the web site, so it pays to check <https://www.gilabch.org/trail-projects> frequently for new information.

Gerry commented that because trail work isn't for everybody and some members don't have riding/packing stock, GBCH is trying to expand its field of operations. Gerry asked for ideas about how to make meetings interesting to a wider audience to bring in members in good standing who don't attend the business meetings and don't work on trail projects. In that vein Michelle McGorky suggested tapping into the talents and resources of equine trainers and others like Bob Hall (owner of Foothills Arabians in Silver City) (<https://www.foothillsarabians.com/index.html>), Jeannette Hamilton (Bar J Horse Training and Boarding), and Pat Buls (The Gentle Tamer) (<https://thegentletamer.wordpress.com/>), who can give informative presentations about matters of concern to back country horse people. Michelle mentioned that the Southwest Horseman's Association, which owns the rodeo arena east of 32nd Street on highway 180 east, is a suitable location for demonstrations and other education activities. She further offered her place in Arenas Valley as a venue GBCH activities.

An important public service GBCH performs is the periodic highway cleanup on our assigned territory between mile markers 108 and 109 on US Highway 180 west of town. A cleanup detail usually takes a couple of hours to do both sides of the road and can fill as many as eight contractor-sized trash bags. Interesting finds along the roadside include articles of clothing (think underwear), pieces of car fenders, broken glass, and (rarely) a dildo. Matt will send out an announcement of next detail. Long sleeves, sturdy pants, a hat, and work gloves are the apparel of choice to corral roadside trash.

Announcements |

The Gila chapter hosts a New Year's party in lieu of the January business meeting. Mary Crow will coordinate the event, which will occur on Saturday, January 25, 2025.

The chapter will not hold a meeting in December. The next meeting will be on Saturday, January 25, 2025.

Gerry Engel noted that the GBCH membership year begins in January (to facilitate reporting and accounting), but that new members can participate right now. Keep an eye on the website and email messages from the chapter's Google Group (gila-bch@googlegroups.com) for up-to-date information.