

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

9/17/2024 6:00 PM | Ft. Bayard Gazebo

Meeting called by	Matt Rehani	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Joan Bacon, Pat Bulls, Mary Crow, Cindi deCapiteau, Gerry Engel, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Russ Imler, Rawlings Lemon, Cheryl Roth, Donna Tillmann
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

AGENDA TOPICS

Recognize guests and new members | Presenter Rawlings Lemon

Welcome to Mary Crow, who lives in Piños Altos and just bought a horse.

Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Rawlings Lemon

No changes

Approval of minutes | Presenter Rawlings Lemon

Minutes approved

Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

- Income \$13,302.66
- Expenses \$12,569.55
- 47 members

Agenda topic Rendezvous 2024 | Presenter Cheryl Roth

Refunds for cancellations:

- A partial refund will be provided if the cancellation occurs after the Rendezvous has begun, but before it is finished, for reasons such as the following:
 - Emergencies
 - Car trouble
 - Illness
- A full refund will be provided if the cancellation occurs before the event begins.
- Registered participants who do not show up and do not cancel will forfeit their registration fees

Insurance for participants:

GBCH members are covered by the chapter's insurance. One of the Rendezvous fun rides is being led by people who are not members, but who made a significant contribution to the fun and games, will receive a gift membership and will be covered by insurance. Membership for Vickie Toney and Alaina Dunivan will be added to the membership roster now and will receive a gift membership for the coming year. The chapter will pay their membership fee for the entire period.

Defibrillator | **Presenter** *Matt Rehani*

GBCH has owned an automatic external defibrillator (AED) for several years. The trail bosses have packed the device on trail projects, but it has never been used and it is expensive to maintain batteries and supplies. Gerry Engel moved to sell the AED on eBay. The motion was seconded and a vote was approved.

Action items

Person responsible

Sell the defibrillator

Gerry Engel

Public Service | **Presenter** *Gerry Engel, Melissa Green*

Project schedule and updates:

Projects recently scheduled for September have been cancelled. The McKenna Park project (September 23-28) has been cancelled because there's no water up there. Another project on the Turkey Creek trail was cancelled because the weather is too hot.

A project on the Holt-Apache trail (#181) will replace the McKenna Park project. The work will cover the trail section from Sheridan Corral to eventually (October 9-14) hook up with the Little Whitewater (#214) toward Glenwood.

Other projects have been completed or are coming up in October 2024, including Gallinas and Railroad Canyon, as well as Allie Canyon, Bear Canyon, and the Wood Haul Road. For details, please see <https://www.gilatrailsinfo.org/trail-projects>.

Gerry Engel reported removing a couple of trees from a trail (whose designation the secretary did not note). Gerry Engel took out a contentious conifer, which was hanging at a steep angle on a steep slope on a steep trail, using a come-along. Gerry was pretty sure the tree would interfere with a pack string traveling on the pathway.

Donna Tillmann and Cheryl Roth report a barrier tree between Sheep Corral and Tadpole Ridge, along the trail to Meadow Creek. There's no way around that tree.

Work is getting done on the Tadpole Ridge trail, sections of which have been unsuitable for stock use since the 2020 fire. Gerry is handling packing for the workers. He has said for a while now that the trail on the north side of the ridge overlooking Sheep Corral Road should probably be re-routed. The trail there is narrow, soft, and crosses a steep slope, posing conditions that are perilous for stock. It might be helpful for GBCH members to complain to the Forest Service about that section.

Action items

Person responsible

Look into removing tree on Meadow Creek Trail

Somebody

USAF Training Flights | **Presenter** *Cheryl Roth*

About one hundred fifty people turned out for a hearing in Silver City to decry the US Air Force's latest effort to conduct low-level training flights over the Gila and Coronado National Forests. GBCH members at tonight's meeting expressed frustration that we are facing this matter again; we said "NO" a couple of years ago and we haven't changed our minds.

The previous proposal was proffered by Holloman Air Force Base in 2018 and was not implemented in the face of opposition from New Mexico. The current proposal begins to address stated training requirements of several Air Force installations in Arizona and has produced a draft environmental impact statement, which you can review at https://www.arizonaregionalairspaceeis.com/media/5zuprqlw/public-draft-eis_main-document.pdf. The Silver

City Daily Press publicized the matter in August with an article you can find at <https://www.scdailypress.com/2024/08/20/air-force-sets-meetings-low-level-flight-plans/>.

An environmental lawyer from the Center for Biological Diversity has evaluated the current impact statement and has threatened to sue the Air Force, offering that “if you do this, you’ll lose if we sue you.” The consensus of the New Mexico community is that the Air Force didn’t evaluate the matter completely; they are claiming that the flaming chaff they intend to spread over the landscape is harmless.

BCHNM Update | Presenter Joan Bacon, Cheryl Roth

The state Back Country Horsemen chapter hasn’t met in September, but a couple of officers are coming down to Silver City to attend the Rendezvous. Final preparations are underway for the September 19-21 event, which will be conducted by the Gila BCH chapter and held at Ft. Bayard.

BCHN Rendezvous | Presenter Cheryl Roth

The weeks following tonight’s meeting will be devoted to preparations for the 2024 BCHNM Rendezvous. Here’s a summary of what’s happening next:

- U All forms and insurance documents covering our activities at Ft. Bayard have been signed and delivered to both BCHNM and the state of New Mexico.
- U Direction signs have been created by Carol Clark and will be posted on the highway and the road into Ft. Bayard.
- U A dumpster will be posted next to the theater.
- U Kirsten Munson will staff the guard shack at the Ft. Bayard entrance.
- U Deborah Whittemore will oversee the various auctions.
- U Gila chapter members will provide water troughs for riding stock during the event. The Fort Bayard Fire Department will fill the troughs with water on Thursday morning, September 19. The troughs will be located on the east side of our campsite.
- U Rawlings Lemon has laid out the parking plan for participant trailers and stock pens.
- U Trees for high lining are located on the south and west sides of the campsite.
- U The campsite has some hazards (old plumbing, holes, other stuff left over from the demolition of the hospital that existed on the site). Those hazards will be marked with orange barrels and flags, which will be provided and delivered by the village of Santa Clara.
- U We expect up to 40 rigs to be parked at the campsite. Each parking spot will be about 25’ wide. There’s plenty of space.
- U Food for the group meal on Saturday (September 21):
 - Gerry Engel, Matt Rehani, and Cheryl Roth are preparing crock pots with pulled pork, chili, and other goodies.
 - Matt and Rawlings are seeing to donuts, crackers, and cookies that participants can devour on Saturday and Sunday morning.
- U Glen Geesaman is the farrier on call.
- U Russ Imler is handling security. He will keep an eye on things during daylight hours on Friday and Saturday
- U Quiet time, during which running generators will not be permitted, will begin at 8:00 p.m. every evening.
- U Cheryl has procured 50 t-shirts that commemorate the Gila 100 anniversary and will be sold to participants for \$20. The shirts have been provided by Morning Star Sports (<http://www.morningstarsports.com/>) at no charge. Morning Star will take back any unsold shirts.

- U Group activities will be held outside and inside the Ft. Bayard theater, which will be set up with tables and seating.
- U Dave and Nancy Imler will handle registration and distribution of participant ID badges, raffle tickets, gift bags, donation jars, etc.
- U Schedule:
 - Thursday 5:00 p.m. - Speaker from Santa Clara, snacks (provided by participants) in the theater
 - Thursday 6:00 p.m. - Speaker from the Ft. Bayard Historical Society
 - Friday 6:00 p.m. - Speaker from the US Forest Service, 50/50 raffle
 - Saturday 5:00-7:00 p.m. - group meal, fundraisers
 - Saturday 7:00 - BCHNM meeting
 - Sunday morning – “Rigormortis Randy,” a mannikin acquired by Grant County Search and Rescue to demonstrate the technique of packing a body out of the wilderness.

Announcements |

Next Meeting: Grant County Extension Office, Tuesday, October 22, 6:00 p.m.