

# Gila Chapter

## Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

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9/16/2025 6:00 PM | Grant County Extension Office

Meeting called by	Cheryl Roth	Attendees
Type of meeting	Monthly business meeting	Joan Bacon, Pat Buls, Carole Clark, Cindi deCapiteau, Gerry Engel, Melissa Green, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Rawlings Lemon, Maureen McLeod, Mike Netharius, Bill Pellerin, Jennifer Pellerin, Cheryl Roth, Silke Schneider, Donna Tillmann, Deborah Wittemore, Laurie Wlosinski
Note taker	Cindi deCapiteau	

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Call to order | Presenter Cheryl Roth

Cheryl Roth called the meeting to order right on time.

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Acknowledge New Members

Two new members joined us this evening. Welcome to Bill Pellerin and Jennifer Pellerin, who arrived in Silver City a year ago from Florida.

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Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting held (in June) were approved by unanimous vote following a motion by Donna Tillmann.

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Financial & membership report | Presenter Dave Imler

Dave Imler's financial report for the period of July and August shows that Gila chapter income, expenses, and bank balances are:

Expenses: \$52, 551.68 (for trail work and corral project at Woody's)

Income: \$30,020.30 (from government grants and donations)

Checking balance is \$91,561.68

GBCH has 64 paid members

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Grant County Search and Rescue | Presenter Laurie Wlosinski

Laurie reported that a rescue involving a missing hiker occurred at Gila Hot Springs. A woman got separated from her hiking partner, who searched for her on his own for two days. The woman popped out of the woods at TJ's corral.

In addition, a mission was conducted for a through hiker lost in a slot canyon. The hiker had an injured leg and was dehydrated. An experienced SAR member found the hiker in spite of erroneous GPS information and in spite of the fact that the hiker was traveling in a direction opposite of where he needed to go. The hiker had to be walked out to safety.

SAR received a report of a suicide that turned out to be not a suicide.

Cheryl mentioned that she and Carole Clark rescued a hiker in Little Bear Canyon. The hiker's sandals were trashed and he was barefoot. He was equipped with arrows and blistered feet. Cheryl and Carole offered the hiker duct tape for his feet and a ride on one of their horses, which he gratefully accepted. The rescuers didn't elaborate about what they did with the arrows.

Laurie's presentation included a brief discussion of the Garmin inReach, an essential piece of equipment for anybody who ventures into the forest. See <https://www.garmin.com/en-US/c/outdoor-recreation/satellite-communicators/> for the best information about the device. If you don't have one, get one. It can save your life, which is probably important to you and your loved ones.

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#### *State BCH | Presenter Joan Bacon*

BCHNM has modified its bylaws with assistance from the New Mexico BCH chapters. The state group is holding quarterly meetings via Zoom (<http://www.zoom.com>). BCHNM is mulling over the always-vital matter of liability insurance and has concluded that the state's policy includes stuff nobody understands. It was suggested that BCHNM should call its insurance agent to present information and answer questions.

The 2025 Rendezvous has apparently reached the stage of planning that identified a location: Resumidero Campground in the Santa Fe National Forest. No other details are available. (The Rendezvous might have already happened. The secretary hasn't been paying much attention.)

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#### *Pack-in for the Clear Creek Trail Project*

Melissa Green provided information about the upcoming trail project south of Aeroplane Mesa, October 3-9. Trail riders will need to provide feed for their horses. Feed and equipment will be packed in and out. Feed and supplies will need to be delivered to Melissa by September 26. Contact Melissa for details. There isn't a lot of water at Clear Creek, but probably enough for the project. Traffic should proceed to the road at Apache Creek as the Bursum Road is (as usual) a miserable trip and might be closed anyway. Project workers will hold a planning meeting after tonight's meeting.

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#### *Musings about Woody's Corral | Presenter Gerry Engel*

Gerry noted that he visited Woody's Corral last week and found all the corrals occupied. Cars were parked around the edge of the facility. The corrals emptied out as the various non-GBCH visitors got in gear and left for their intended activities.

Melissa Green presented a slide show about the construction of the new corrals at Woody's. She encouraged the group to visit up there and give her any suggestions for improvements.

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#### *Adjournment*

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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#### *Announcements*

- Pat Buls is sponsoring a series of "Formation Riding" clinics. The first session will occur on Saturday, September 20, starting at 10:00 a.m. Subsequent sessions will occur once a month on Saturdays. All sessions are held at 171 Racetrack Road (formerly Bud Webster's place). The excellent instructor is Elizabeth Evangel, who will cover attention, listening, lateral work, and other equine skills critical to trail riding. Each session is \$40. Contact Pat for more information.
- An updated version of the GBCH emergency call tree is attached. See the following page.
- Next Meeting: Grant County Extension Office, October 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

**Gila Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico  
Emergency Phone Tree  
September 2025**

