

GBCH Meeting minutes 6.16.26

Meeting began at 6:03pm

Last months minutes were approved.

Trail Training Series Announcement:

A new trail training series will be held on alternate Fridays during the summer. The training will focus on obstacles and will take place at 171 Racetrack Road at 6:00 PM when it is cooler. The first session is scheduled for July 10, 2026, alternating with formation riding which is on July 3, 2026. The cost for the training is forty dollars. Pat Buls, the instructor, shared her background, including learning to ride at Fort Leavenworth, joining a national jumping team in South America, and continuous self-education.

Rodeo Cleanup and Recap: The rodeo cleanup was successful with a large turnout. The Gila chapter will receive a check for \$500 for their work. A lost and found was established for items left at the rodeo, including umbrellas, sunglasses, and children's clothing. The trick riders at the rodeo, aged nine and eleven, were noted as a highlight of the event.

New Member and Search & Rescue Discussion: New attendees Rebecca and Sam Winger introduced themselves. They have been in the area for ten years and are interested in learning about Search and Rescue (SAR). Dave Imbler and Jerry were identified as contacts for SAR information. A recent SAR operation was successful in locating a 77-year-old hiker who was found in good shape.

Treasurer's Report and Donations Treasurer's Report:

Income: \$1,092

Expenses: \$42,660.24

Checking Account Balance: \$2,544.68

Donation: A donation was received from Ron Keller for volunteer efforts on Rain Creek Trail 189. The group discussed improvements at the Rain Creek trailhead, including a vault toilet and picnic tables, and the reopening of an abandoned airstrip nearby by the New Mexico Pilots Association.

Horse and Llama Exposure Clinic: The group discussed an effort to acclimate horses to llamas by using llama wool. Some horses reacted with sniffing or backing away, but desensitization efforts showed some success. A future clinic for horse-llama exposure is being planned. The date is pending based on the availability of Scott and Wendy, who own the llamas.

Upcoming Events and Arrangements:

State Rendezvous: Tentatively scheduled for the weekend of August 22, 2026, at Valley Tio Vince's campground. More details are pending due to a recent fire in the area.

July Picnic: The annual chapter picnic will be a potluck on July 21, 2026, at 4:00 PM at the Gomez Peak Group Picnic Area. The chapter will provide dinnerware and drinks. Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share.

Backcountry Horsemen License Plates: All ordered plates have been picked up and paid for. More are available for order from the state level as a fundraiser.

Presentation on Wilbur-Cruce Spanish Barb Horses:

Silke Schneider gave a presentation on the history and preservation of Wilbur Cruce Spanish Barb horses.

Origin: The Wilbur-Cruce horses are a specific strain of the Spanish Barb breed, originating from a ranch in Arivaca, Arizona, where they lived in isolation for about 100 years.

History: Dr. Wilbur purchased the horses in 1870. His granddaughter, Eva Antonia Wilbur-Cruce, continued the ranch. In 1990, the herd was saved from a drought by the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy (now The Livestock Conservancy) when the ranch was sold.

Characteristics: They are small (13.3–14.3 hands), tough, and well-adapted to rugged environments, with very hard, small feet.

Preservation: Efforts are underway to preserve the genetic diversity of the strain through organizations and DNA typing. They are considered a “critical” breed.

Comparison: These horses differ from modern feral mustangs, which are more interbred. The original feral horses in the 1800s were Spanish, but many were later crossbred to produce larger animals.

Websites (for further info):

Heritagebreeds

Spanishbarbs.org

Livestockconservancy.org

Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm