



Trail Tales



January 1, 2013

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2012
by Lauri Rector



Dixon and Zelda Patrick were the gracious hosts for the club's Christmas party/meeting. We managed to fill their beautiful, very large home.

The meeting was called to order at 6:19 pm.

GUESTS: Ross (Carol Bevel's friend) who drives a '91 Toyota Pickup and is here from Las Cruces, and Marcia, a friend of Chris Sears.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Bevel, Pat & Sue Brady, Richard Brooks, Craig Courtwright & Vicki Medlin, Jennifer Chapin, Jack & Cathy Dickey, Erwin Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Jeanne Meier, Dixon & Zelda Patrick, Dan & Chris Pritchard, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy & Janie Shows, Mark Werkmeister & Joanne Spivack, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector: Jeanne Meier saved the day for everyone and made the motion to dispense with the reading of the November meeting minutes (you can find them in the December Trail Tales on the web-site). There was a lot of grumbling, but Dixon ruled that the motion successfully passed anyway.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy: Current balance is \$1,838.31.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mark Wolf: Jennifer is the only one with a fine. Mark explained the points for the guests. He has an attendance list and a list of current points.

KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!!
Keep PUBLIC land open to the PUBLIC

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston: Not a lot of change from the November meeting. We are still awaiting a response from Socorro BLM office. NMOVA is still working on the Santa Fe Forest challenges. Motor vehicle usage maps (MVUM) are not expected out until the spring.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs:

PAST EVENTS:

November 11 – Cimarron Mesa – Frank Whiston: Jeff Boggs lead this trail ride; Frank spoke about it in Jeff's absence. The group went out and explored around. Any trails that they found would take a lot of work before they could make it up, so they didn't run any. Roads are still very bad to get out there.

Food Drive – Frank Whiston: About a dozen vehicles turned out for this event, which was a really good showing. We have not yet received a letter from Roadrunner Food Bank, which normally gives the number of pounds donated.

December 1st – Green Canyon/Cabin Loop Exploratory (T or C Area) – Jack Dickey: Bob and Sandy Powell met them at Williamsburg along with Curtis Hill. Some other buggy's were already there and joined them along with Harry Wagoner (Harry Situation) for a photo shoot for a magazine. The trail starts off with an off camber obstacle against a wall. Then come a series of V notches. Everyone agreed to pass Cabin Loop and go over to watch the extreme stuff and play around for a while before coming back to Cabin Loop. They parked and watched the extreme guys playing in a boulder area – rocks the size of refrigerators and ended up not doing Cabin Loop at all. This is BLM area and old mining and it is a good opportunity for development into an OHV area. Required equipment were lockers, lift, and bigger tires. There is opportunity for different levels of vehicles to have fun in this area.

December 1st – Christmas Tree Run – Jennifer Chapin: Several people joined her for her 1st time as the Trail Leader (way to go girlfriend!!!). She was given bad directions; all roads lead back to the main road, except for FR604. I think backtracking FR604 is what her fine is for. I've always said that it is not an official club run until the leader has to turn the whole group around because they are going in the wrong direction.

BE A TRAIL LEADER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

December 15th – Caja del Rio – Mark Wolf: One last time to do this trail. Hope you didn't miss it.

December 30th or 31st – New Mexico 4-Wheelers Rockin New Year's Eve Run: Meet at the staging area at Gordy's Hill by 8:30. We will determine what trails are running until we access the Newbies and see who can do what.

February (3rd week or so) - Chile Challenge: Registration is on-line. It is \$175 this year.

Mid May 8th –Sunday– Moab – Cliff Meier: There were no changes from last month (Cliff was not here to discuss this trail). More details to follow. Keep an eye out on the web site. Sunday they will head to the green river and then to the San Rafael Swell area. Reservations at Canyonland RV park. They have cabins if you need one.

Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site - it is continually updated and added to and will have all of the contact information you need!!!

New Trail Leaders will earn 5 points on their 1st trail lead this year

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell: He was not present. No raffle tickets sold.

HISTORIAN’S REPORT – Glenn Viapondo: Not present. Keep posting your pictures to the Picasa site.

WEB-MEISTER’S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy: Picasa got changed over to the website now, except for the last 3 months. You still need to upload pictures to Picasa. Don will see if the historian, Glenn Viapondo, wants to be the one to migrate the photos to the website. You can now download a photo from the website to your computer. Contact links on the website were discussed; they hadn’t been working. Don explained that he has now fixed that. He also explained about changes to bulk email that unintentionally broke other things; all are fixed now.

EDITOR’S REPORT –Phil Rodacy: Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: There is no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS: Jennifer Chapin spoke about an event that she wants the club to do as fund raiser for the Susan G Koman New Mexico group. Rather than a “Run For The Cure” it would be a “Ride for the Cure”. We may meet for coffee before the ride; there could be a nominal fee or donation requested. Other suggestions were getting sponsors; ie: identify donation as per vehicle rather than per mile. Holding a raffle was also suggested. Jeannie Meier suggested that we check insurance for each vehicle. Insurance for the BLM could be needed too. Cedro Peak is where it may be, March could be too early. Janie suggested we plan it for March so maybe we do get snow. Dixon would like the officers to come to a decision before the next meeting.



Dixon gave a big hearty thanks to the Patrick's (Dixon and Zelda) for the use of their home for the Christmas Party. We all had a lot of fun!!!

50/50 Raffle Winners: No Raffle

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 6:49 pm



President's Report

By Dixon Patrick

I hope everyone had a great Christmas with family and friends. We enjoyed the Christmas party as the club is part of our family. Thanks again for the support of the Road Runner Food Drive and we received a thank you from them.

Several of us have been working on adding another element to our meetings, which would be to learn something new. I need some ideas on what you would like to know more about. Would learning how to create a folder and upload to Picasa be of interest? In March (yea it was going to be Jan but I figured with snow no one would try it) I will have one on geocaching (see <http://www.geocaching.com>). This would add another element to our rides if we go in search of a "treasure" or leave one behind.

As we all know for our hobby to work it takes people, vehicles and a place to go. Santa Fe National Forest is one of our favorite places and is in the final stages of 70 % being closed. December 11, NMOHVA filed a lawsuit on Santa Fe National Forest in an attempt to reverse the decision. It is close to Albuquerque and has lots of shade in the summer. For this area to close so much of the trails, it will greatly impact our day rides. The government has laws and processes to protect us and our lands. When government agencies do not follow the law and process something must be done. If we do not act, this will allow future misuse of the system. Please go to <http://www.nmohva.org/main/newsletters.php> and keep up to date on the issues and if possible donate to support this lawsuit. Talk to you friends, as this will impact vehicle users and hunters, hikers.

SNOW this morning, we need a snow run.

We have an incentive for new trail leaders, **5 points for first timers**. If you're looking to be a leader, ask around and find an active trail leader to plan a ride. Remember our meetings are as much clerical as they are social, so find someone you may not know and trade stories.



Director of Environmental Affairs By Frank Whiston

There are 155 National Forests in the US. Most have had to do some form of Travel Management decision to comply with the Travel Management Rule. Of all those decisions, there have been only THREE challenged in court to date by the OHV community (the NMOHVA lawsuit is #3). This is about much more than the camping, roads and trails lost in the Santa Fe National Forest. It is about sending a clear message to the agency that we are smarter, stronger, and much more determined than we were in the past. Help NMOHVA send that message! Money is what will make this thing go. Legal challenges are expensive and will require the greatest extent of financial support possible from its membership. So, what does that mean to us? **I challenge each NM4W member (who is also a member of NMOHVA via the Club's membership) to donate two tanks of gas to the NMOHVA Access Defense Fund.** Several members have already made equivalent donations and I applaud each and every one of you. What would you give to get routes back that NM4W has enjoyed for many, many years such as Caja Del Rio aka "The Blowhole", Tank Trap, Paliza Canyon, and the Guadalupe crossing to name a few? How about a couple tanks of gas? The national average price at the pump is \$3.27/Gal right now. Two 18 gallon tanks would be ~\$120. If all 63 NM4W member families donated \$120, NMOHVA would receive \$7,560. That is the kind of support that NMOHVA is going to need. Together, we can do more!

Frank G. Whiston
NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.



LEAD A TRAIL By Mark Wolf

Hey! We need trip leaders to the following:

Canyon de Chelly, Hole in the Rock, The Maze, Alamogordo, Caballo Mountain/Palomas Gap, Gallup, Salida, Colorado, Silverton, Colorado, Arizona runs (per Charles Wells), California, Nevada, and wherever else it would be cool to go, which covers a lot of ground!

If you don't know these places, it's high time to find out what they offer! Ask me or anyone who has been there. We'll get you started towards leading the trail. We don't want to go to meetings all the time! Lead a trip and get those points racked up! You could win a cool gift certificate and have fun doing it!

Here are a few tips for Trail Leaders!

Safety Rules for the Four Wheel Drive enthusiast

1. Know your vehicle!

This is probably the most important thing for your four wheeling pleasure. Knowing the limits, low points, and strong/weak points are really important. Every vehicle is vulnerable, but not in the same place. Knowing what to protect is really important in preserving your fun.

2. Always wear your seatbelt and ensure others in your vehicle do the same!

This almost goes without saying. However, people tend to think that because they're going slow they're out of danger. Expect the unexpected! You never know when a dirt bank will give way or a tire will go flat on a side hill causing your vehicle to tip. Staying in the vehicle is the safest thing to do. Staying in your seat is the best way to "ride it out".

3. Never go alone!

This is probably one of the worst sins that a Four Wheel Drive enthusiast commits. You can be the most prepared person/vehicle on the trail, but can still get stranded when something unexpected happens. Having at least one other vehicle around gives you peace of mind and it's a whole lot more fun to go with someone else.

4. Plan ahead for short or long trips.

Always take plenty of water for you, your passengers and your vehicle. Pack enough food to sustain you for more than the expected length of the trip. Weird things can happen and you can become stranded. Being prepared is one way to survive the ordeal. Make sure you have plenty of warm clothes in the vehicle. Some matches are also a good idea. Think about the trip you're going to take and pack accordingly. Always perform a "readiness review" of the vehicle.

5. Tell someone where you're going, how long you expect to be gone and approximately when you'll get back and let them know when you return.

This can save your life! If you don't return your friends/family will take the necessary steps towards rescue. Whether that is simply to go look for you or calling 911 will be their choice. At least there's someone who can do that for you! You may take a cell phone and think you're covered, but in this state and many others there is no service in the back country and the phone is useless.

6. Tie anything and everything down in the vehicle!

Anything that can move around becomes a potential “missile”. You never know when your vehicle will tip causing any loose items to become projectiles. Besides, things sliding around can cause undue ruptures or breakage. You wouldn’t want your spare gasoline or water to become lost due to a rupture from sliding around. That would leave you unprepared and open to a disaster. Coolers can damage the human body easily should they become projectiles.

7. If your view is blocked ahead/behind, get out and walk first!

Just because the trail goes to the top of the hill, doesn’t mean the trail keeps going. There could be a 150’ drop off on the other side of the hill! Also, water can look shallow in certain light. Check it with a stick to verify the depth. Watch out for holes. Getting out to walk around and check things out will save you embarrassing and maybe tragic moments.

8. Trust your gut feeling – Don’t take chances!

If it feels wrong, it probably is. There’s no need in pushing you or your vehicle beyond their respective limits. It will always end up in a bad situation. Most stranded people are the victims of their own mistakes. Like that saying for kids and drugs - Know when to say no! You have nothing to prove.

9. Ensure your spare tire, tire tools, and jack are in good working order at all times.

These are critical items to check in your “readiness” review. You never know when a perfectly good tire will deflate due to a manufacturer’s defect. Keep your spare in good working order as needing it is unpredictable. Your tire tools are also important and that includes your jack. You can’t change a tire very easily without all of these items. A hi-lift jack is recommended as it is a versatile, multi-functional tool. Flat tires are a common occurrence. Be prepared.

10. Always carry a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, shovel, flashlight and water. A basic tool kit is also recommended.

Most of the time these things come in handy when you meet less prepared folks on the trail. Those who don’t know these 10 basic safety steps will venture off and eventually get into trouble because they failed to prepare. However, in the unlikely event you do get into trouble, it will be a big relief to know that you prepared yourself for trouble.

Remember this! Most of all stay with your vehicle! They are a lot easier to find than people. If you have followed the steps above, someone will come looking for you when you don’t return as expected.



Caja del Rio – Blow Hole Run II

By Mark Wolf

On Saturday, December 15, 2012 seven vehicles joined me for a run to see the “blow hole” one last time – again - before it is closed by the Santa Fe National Forest as part of the FINAL Travel Management Plan for that area. The “blow hole” is a natural lava tube vent that is perched upon a hill and is some 200’ deep (by estimates only) and approximately 20’ in diameter.



After running this trail in October, I had requests to run it again as the “Map” for the SFNF had not been issued which means it is officially open until that map is out for public use. I had several people that had never been on the run and they were impressed. This time though, it had snowed in the area a day or so prior to us running the trail, which made it a whole new trail! Jennifer Jacobs was the only one who had been there in October, but this time she brought along her daughter, Mariah, who rarely has a day off on

weekends and this was a chance for Mom and daughter to have some fun. And that they did! We heard them laughing several times loud enough to be heard outside their vehicle. I’m glad they could have a good time as that is what it is all about. Also along were Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Erwin & Jeannie Grevin, Dixon Patrick, Jennifer Chapin, Gregg Rudtke and friend, and guest Scott Cridge. The vehicles were varied, but all made it...eventually. I brought along the Grand Cherokee this time as the Comanche is broke down awaiting some parts that appear to be “no longer available”. When you’re first in line in the snow, the trip is fun. If you are next in line, you are in packed snow/ice. Each successive vehicle had a harder time due to the packed snow.

I brought along the GPS coordinates from our website this time, but never needed them as I found every turn and sailed through the trail without a missed turn. That was lucky! In the “gulch” (great Colorado term!) it was even more fun than last time as the snow made the rocks and trees harder to manipulate. In fact, a certain black Hummer ended up stuck and Dixon had to break out the winch. (Does that mean “fine”?!) I asked her if she was running with the lockers “on” and the response was affirmative. I recommended turning them off until really needed as they will fight with you on packed snow. She did so and no more issues. The hill was even more fun than before, but all made it up. Up on top it was bumpy, but eventually leveled out and the snow was kind of fun to drive in. Some fell into ruts as that is what happens when you drive in packed snow. Even with these minor issues we made it to the blow hole at about 1:15. We had lunch, took a hike down to see the vent, and then loaded up and headed off the trail. But, wait! Not so fast!

There is a very steep hill just after the “hole” that has lots of drop offs and deep holes to drive through. I knew when I went through there it was going to be fun for the rest of the group. Sure enough, someone stood it on its nose! Well, almost anyway. The rest kind of slid down as gracefully as they could and hoped for no body damage. It took about 20 minutes to get everyone off the hill, but they all made it and on we went. There was another hill I had forgotten about that was long and steep! It took a while to get up this one also, but no one



failed to make it. Scott had a little problem and Dixon was going to try and pull him from half way up, but I quickly recommended that Scott back down and try it again as Dixon would have a real hard time in that kind of position. Scott did so, and came at the hill with a vengeance this time and sailed to the top. Jennifer Jacobs made it in one try with that 4 cylinder wound up tight! You could hear her and Mariah laughing all the way up the hill! After that, we gradually made our way back to



the air down spot and got out to fill our tires up. It was another beautiful day to go four wheeling and I had a great group of people tagging along. Thanks to all who came along and to those who missed it sorry. It may be awhile before we can go back to that spot. Of course, I said that before!



Christmas Tree Run

By Jennifer Chapin

After figuring out how to load routes in my GPS and having a plan of where our trail ride would take us I thought I was prepared to lead the trail ride. Everyone wanted to go a different route than I had planned on. That is all fine and I was told by many of the people to just take any of the roads they all connect back so it should not be a problem. It was a very nice day with lots of children and dogs all excited to be out on the trail looking for Christmas Trees. We had a few very long stops before lunch while everyone explored and looked for trees. I brought my friends Aussy and Jessica who have never been on a 4x4 trail ride before. They both were enjoying the scenery and seeing the very little patches of snow that we would happen upon. We were all enjoying getting pictures and looking for a tree. Jessica wanted me to drive in every ditch in the road to see what the Hummer could do. I think she will enjoy going on a more challenging trail ride in the future. After taking us on a few dead end roads it was lunch time. Our chicken salad was still somewhat frozen so I had my hood open to try to thaw out our lunch. We then continued on down the trail and stopped again for another tree search. With everyone getting trees that wanted them, it was time to call it a day and head back home. Thanks to everyone that helped me find the way.





Green Canyon / Cabin Trail Exploratory

By Jack Dickey

Photos by Jack and Cathy Dickey

December 1, 2012

I had always wondered where dirt roads in the hills east of I-25 at Arrey led. When I learned that my friend Curtis Hill of T or C and the Las Cruces Four Wheel Drive Club had been wheeling and developing trails in Green Canyon, I thought what a good opportunity it would be to do a club trip to learn the area. With a few phone calls to Curtis, I was able to set the date for Curtis to guide an exploratory trip to Green Canyon and Cabin Trail for members of New Mexico Four Wheelers.

Jeff and Paula Boggs and Cathy and I booked rooms at Firewater Lodge in the historic Hot Springs District of T or C for Friday night; while Bob and Sandy Powell made arrangements to meet us Saturday morning. Jeff and Paula made a quick get away from Rio Rancho on Friday afternoon. Cathy and I met in Socorro after work and on our way to T or C had green chile cheeseburgers at the Buckhorn in San Antonio. Both couples arrived at the motel within a few minutes of each other. After a couple of beers and some wine, we turned in early anticipating a long Saturday.

After a restful night for Jeff, Paula, Cathy and I, we meet Curtis, Bob and Sandy at the Shell station at the south end of Broadway in Williamsburg at 8:00 am. Bob and Sandy were a little weary after a 4:30 am departure from Rio Ranch, but excited to be able explore a new area. Curtis let us in on a pleasant surprise: the group was being joined by three other rigs and Harry Wagner, a feature editor for Peterson's 4Wheel and Off-Road. Curtis proposed that all of us would wheel Green Canyon to where the Bone Trail (an extreme) takes off. Curtis, his rock-buggy (a highly modified CJ on 44's with a Corvette 350 and a custom NV4500 trans), and the three other rigs, all rock buggies, would run Bone Trail then rejoin the group to run Cabin Trail. There is easy access above Bone Trail via an old two-track mining road where the non-extreme folks could watch the buggies get stupid crazy. All of us in the original group agreed to the new plan – any wheeling is good wheeling particularly when a magazine editor is there doing a story/photo shoot!

We loaded up and headed to Curtis' mom's property east of Arrey between I-25 and the Rio Grande. After a short wait, the buggies arrived: Jeff Jacobson from Albuquerque (Jeep Scrambler with a LT1 on Dana 60s), Josh Simmons from Las Cruces (YJ with a 383 stroker and Rockwell axles with rear steer), and Pete from Las Cruces (highly modified Jeep). We had a quick driver's meeting, aired-down, then headed south on the original Model-T road between Las Cruces and T or C. A short drive later, we ducked through a tunnel under I-25 and traveled east to Green Canyon.

Unfortunately, Pete's jeep starting having fuel delivery issues and would be delayed in reaching Green Canyon. But, Pete knew the way and was in a good spot should he not be able to get is rig going again, so the group traveled on.

The hills around Green Canyon have a long history of mining and ranching. Area mines and prospects are part of the old Derry District where barite, fluorite, and galena were once extracted. Many of the canyons and ridges have roads and two tracks that were bulldozed for mining operations. Most of the lands are administered by Las Cruces BLM with a few sections being State Trust lands.

The trail along Green Canyon crosses sections of wide sandy wash and narrow limestone outcrops and cliffs. The first obstacle involved getting through an off-camber squeeze against a rock wall. The buggies got through encountering no concerns. I got Poco Loco through with an inch to spare using careful spotting, patient driving, and high-side counter balance. Bob and Jeff inched their jeeps through, but both suffered minor tears on passenger rear corners of their soft-tops.





The next obstacle consisted of three different notches through a rocky section in the canyon bottom. One could chose a moderate high notch, middle extreme, or lower stupid notch. Cutis took his buggy through the middle notch. Jeff Boggs, Bob, and Jeff Jacobson, and I choose the high notch.

With consistent driving and solid spotting Pete got his red jeep through the lower notch; while Josh more or less bashed his way through.





Once through, the group continued up canyon. Curtis pointed out where we would turn north for Cabin Trail near a cave/tunnel in the rock wall above us to the south. Soon we turned off the main canyon and crawled up a side canyon to Bone Trail. Pete was again having fuel issues with his red jeep and stayed in the main canyon to try to repair the problem. Without delay, the buggies slowly crawled out of sight over refrigerator sized boulders in the bottom of the wash that is Bone Trail. Us mere mortals turned around and crawled back to Green Canyon en-route to an overlook via two-

track to watch the buggies. After a slight detour while finding the two-track, we were high above the canyon and found easy walking access to a steep, under-cut waterfall the buggies faced.

The buggies not only encountered extreme terrain, but Curtis had a flat and Jeff Jacobson's Scrambler broke the passenger front main leaf. Curtis was able to get his tire re-seated and aired up. With a wrench, two vice-grip pliers, a ratchet strap, and LOTS of duct tape, Jeff J. did a field repair. On different past trips, each driver had been able to get their buggies up the waterfall. But that was not the case today. Despite expert driving and capable rigs, each had to winch over. The three rigs made it out of the Bone without further incident.





While the buggies were getting crazy and we were having a blast watching, Pete was able to get his jeep running again. He decided to check the fuel pick up in the tank. He found that the fuel line had separated from a T between two pick-up filters. When the motor was running and pulling fuel, the fuel line would get stuck to the side of the tank. But, when standing and idling, it would hang free and provide enough fuel. Problem solved!

By this time shadows were getting long. Considering the minor problems, the lowering sun, and that we all had a great day so far, we all decided to forego Cabin Trail. We returned to Curtis' property via a southern route out to Green Canyon Dam, under I-25, and back to the dusty old Model T road. We loaded up the rigs, basked in the glow that only a great day wheeling can give, thanked Curtis for his guidance, and said our goodbyes.

Bob and Sandy returned to Rio Rancho Saturday evening. Jeff, Paul, Cathy and I stayed in T or C Saturday night for a wonderful meal at the Bella Luca Restaurant and hot spring mineral bath soaking in our in-room tubs!

The trails in Green Canyon offer some great wheeling. Additional trails are being scouted for even more opportunities. Judging from the smiles on everyone's faces, I would guess that NM4W will be back.



Chrysler Addresses the “Jeep Death Wobble” By Phil Rodacy

Chrysler has taken steps to kill the so-called “Jeep Death Wobble.”

After several hundred complaints were filed with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) by Jeep Wrangler owners who experienced a severe vibration in their 2005-2010 model year vehicles, two members of Congress from California urged the company to address the issue, which it has now done by issuing a technical service bulletin (TSB, Technical Service Bulletin 19-002-12) that recognizes the problem and suggests several ways to fix it.

A probe by NHTSA earlier this year concluded that the condition “does not result in loss of control,” and did not lead to a recall or other action by the agency.

The TSB maintains that the problem, a vibration in the steering system transmitted through the steering wheel, is not unique to Jeep products and is possible in any vehicle equipped with a solid front axle. It offers several causes for the issue, including the installation of aftermarket equipment, incorrect air pressure and worn steering and suspension components.

Democratic California Representatives Henry Waxman and Anna Eshoo, who in July sent a letter to Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne asking him to reach out to consumers on the issue, welcomed the decision with a joint statement that read, in part, "Chrysler's decision to issue an official method of repair for this problem is the right thing to do for its customers and for the safety of others on the road."

The following notice was sent to Chrysler Dealers:



Steering System Maintenance:

It is important that the steering system be kept in good working condition. Having your vehicle inspected regularly to ensure it meets proper factory specifications, and promptly repairing the steering system when it is out of factory specifications, helps ensure the vehicle maintains its intended ride, handling and steering characteristics.

Vehicles equipped with a solid front axle may exhibit steering system vibration if the steering system is damaged or not properly maintained. This condition is not unique to Chrysler Group vehicles; any manufacturer's vehicle equipped with a solid front axle has the potential to exhibit steering system vibration.

To ensure that Chrysler Group customers have the most relevant information to enhance their vehicle enjoyment -- and that customers receive the best service from repair facilities diagnosing and addressing steering system vibration -- the Company has issued Technical Service Bulletin 19-002-12 to assist dealers and repair facilities in the diagnosis and repair of this condition.

The following is a summary of the steering and suspension system elements that can potentially contribute to steering system vibration. Chrysler recommends having your authorized Chrysler dealer inspect these elements should you experience steering system vibration:

- Is the vehicle equipped with aftermarket components or other modifications (e.g. lift kits, wheels, suspension components or tires) that can affect the performance of or wear upon steering components?*
- Check the air pressure in the tires and ensure they are inflated to the recommended pressure. This value can be found on the tire placard located on the driver's front door enclosure.
- Inspect the tires for signs of unusual or uneven wear, cupping or other damage.
- Ensure that the tires/wheels are balanced within specification
- Inspect the steering damper for excessive wear or damage.**
- Inspect the track bar for excessive wear or damage.**
- Inspect the tie rods for excessive wear or damage.**
- Inspect the drag link for excessive wear or damage.**
- Inspect the ball joints for excessive wear or damage.**

* Installation of aftermarket steering and suspension components or wheel and tire assemblies that are either not compatible with your vehicle or not designed for on-road use is most often the cause of steering system vibration, in which case you may consult your aftermarket equipment manufacturer or vehicle modifier for repair suggestions.

** If any of the steering or suspension components are replaced, a front end wheel alignment is required.

If you have questions regarding your vehicle, its ride and handling or steering characteristics as they may relate to steering system vibration, please consult with your authorized Chrysler Group dealer to have your vehicle inspected.



Penetrating Oils

Contributed by Laurie Rector

Machinist's Workshop Mag™ recently published some information on various penetrating oils that I found very interesting. Some of you might appreciate this. The magazine reports they tested penetrates for break out torque on rusted nuts.

They are below, as forwarded by an ex-student and professional machinist. They arranged a subjective test of all the popular penetrates with the control being the torque required to remove the nut from a “scientifically rusted” environment.

Penetrating oil	Average torque
None	516 pounds
WD-40	238 pounds
PB Blaster	214 pounds
Liquid Wrench	127 pounds
Kano Kroil	106 pounds
ATF*-Acetone mix	53 pounds

*ATF=Automatic Transmission Fluid

The ATF-Acetone mix was a “home brew” mix of 50 - 50 automatic transmission fluid and acetone. Note the “home brew” was better than any commercial product in this one particular test.

Note also that “Liquid Wrench” is almost as good as “Kroil” for about 20% of the price.

Steve from Godwin-Singer says that ATF-Acetone mix is the best and you can also use ATF-lacquer thinner 50 - 50 mix.

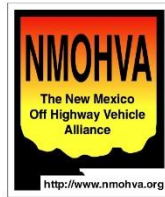
(Editor's note: Be cautious when using acetone or lacquer thinner around painted surfaces as they can soften or remove many types of paints. Likewise, they often attack rubber and other polymers, causing them to swell or degrade.)

NM4W Officers

President Dixon Patrick 271-9133 pr@nm4w.org	Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 vp@nm4w.org	Secretary Lauri Rector 891-8517 se@nm4w.org
Treasurer Jason Lavy 710-4928 tr@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 pc@nm4w.org	Historian Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 hi@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Frank Whiston 292-1541 de@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net

Web Site Administrator wa@nm4w.org

Newsletter editor ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



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Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2012
by Lauri Rector



We are back at the church again.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

GUESTS: Scott Cridge - '13 Wrangler – a hybrid Rubicon, since it has Rubicon wheels, Andy Shulze - '96 Jeep Cherokee, Bill Boone 2007 something and a '12 Rubicon (sorry, I lost track when I heard the word “Rubicon”), Joe & Farah Nickerson '13 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon Unlimited (glad you guys are back and have a new Jeep!!)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Jennifer Chapin, Guy Conway, Erwin Greven, Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. & Beth Whiston.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector: Well, being ready at past meetings and starting reading the minutes paid off finally. Dixon had barely started to say “Secretary's Report” and a motion was made to dispense of the reading of the minutes and accept them as written in the January Trail. Motion was successfully passed. But, take note everyone, I will be ready at the next meeting!!!

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy: \$1,385.87 no bills coming up, everything should be all paid up. Dues will start coming in a few months.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mark Wolf: Mark was not present so Dixon explained the points and fine system to the guests. Jennifer Chapin fined for Calla del Rio trail, she had to be pulled out of a lot of places.

KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!!

KEEP PUBLIC LAND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston: Comment period for Camino Real ends on January 14th.

2 weeks from today we have a meeting with the Socorro BLM office. The area is referred to as Johnson Hill rather than Gordy's Hill. Johnson Hill comes from the name of the road that goes into the area.

Status of the NMOHVA law suit with the Santa Fe Forest: The Forest has until mid-February to respond.

Mark Werkmeister asked for Volunteers for the Bob Gerding 15th Annual Outdoor Adventures Hunting & Fishing Show on February 8th, 9th & 10th of February. NMOHVA will have a booth there to try getting word out on the Travel Management issues and how it affects hunters. He needs help on Friday and Sunday, they have Saturday covered.

Erwin Grevin mentioned that he went to a Horseman meeting last night and there was a Santa Fe Forest person there. She brought out a map that outlined the equestrian and hiking trails. He asked and she confirmed that there is a management program for those users and it is similar to the Travel Management agenda that affects Jeeps. He had tried to educate the equestrians in years past that when the Travel Management program gets put into place, it will affect where they can park their horse trailers and they basically "pooh-poohed" him. He had no idea the National Forests were also reviewing and mapping the trails that the horses could ride on.

BE A TRAIL LEADER

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs:

PAST EVENTS:

December 15th – Caja del Rio – Mark Wolf: Mark wasn't present, so others reported. They had a good group. It was very wet and through a lot of the trail you just had to go along in the ruts, you couldn't steer it and make your vehicle go in the direction you wanted it to go in.

December 29th – New Mexico 4-Wheelers Rockin New Year's Eve Run @ Gordy's Hill – Lauri Rector – we had 9 vehicles join us on this trip. The 1st meeting place was at the Phillip's 66 at the Lemitar exit. It was very cold when we got there, I was showing 14 and Jennifer Chapin said that her Hummer was showing 11. We then went to Gordy's Hill staging area and met up with several more people. We split into 2 groups with Jeff Boggs leading the smaller tire group and Jeff Rector lead the people that wanted to go on something a little more difficult (even if we didn't have bigger tires). Jeff Boggs and I wrote articles – they are included in the February Trail Tails.

Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site - it is continually updated and added to and will have all of the contact information you need!!!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February (3rd week or so) - Chile Challenge: Registration is on-line at the Chile Challenge website. Registration is \$175 this year. Cliff Meier has raffle tickets – prizes are a winch from Warren – a set of tires from Goodyear.

March – Jeep Safari in Moab – Cliff has information packets if anyone is interested.

May 8th –16th - Moab–Cliff Meier: The 8th will be for traveling to Moab. Then, until Sunday they will wheel in Moab area – wherever everyone wants to go – it depends on who is there and who where people are interested in going. On Sunday they will head to the Green River and then to the San Rafael Swell area. Guy Conway suggested that if you get bad gas mileage, you might want to bring extra gas if you are going on Sunday. Reservations have been made at Canyonland RV Park. They have cabins there too.

All 4-Fun – see club website calendar for info.

New Trail Leaders will earn 5 points on their 1st trail lead this year

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell: Tracy explained the raffle and that the money is going to NMOHVA. He has money to give to NMOHVA - \$148 from the 50/50 fund, including tonight's 50/50 raffle. He got a quote with the 4 color logo – \$9 is our cost. Put a hold on ordering any now due to small amount of funds in the bank.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Viaondo: Not present, but Dixon told the guests where pictures were posted. Good resource if there were thinking about going on a trail ride with us and wanted to get an idea of what the trail is like.

WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy: Just a few bugs that are being fixed; address and emails are not showing up for some club members.

EDITOR'S REPORT –Phil Rodacy: Dixon asked who read the January Trail Tails; almost everyone had and really enjoyed it. Dixon asked that everyone give Phil a hand on his good job of editing our monthly newsletter. Phil explained that it was good because of the articles that we write and submit to him to put in the new letter. His part is to only organize

it and put it on the web-site. Dixon wanted him to know that we appreciate that he does that for us.

OLD BUSINESS: Discussion on getting a paper trail on the \$5,000 that SWFWDA donated to us for us to pass along to NMOHVA. Jason Lavy reported that he is working on this and had emailed the NMOHVA Treasurer for a receipt. Mark Werkmeister advised Jason Lavy that he will get him one.

NEW BUSINESS: We started discussing the club purchase of raffle tickets from the SWFWDA Winter Quarterly right after we tabled the purchase of club shirts with the 4 color logo. We have purchased \$500 worth of raffle tickets in the past. A \$500 purchase right now will be too much for how little we have in the bank right now. Someone made a motion of a purchase of \$250 worth of tickets. It was discussed and voted and successfully passed to purchase \$250 worth of tickets to the SWFWDA raffle held at the Chile Challenge.

Labor Day Campout with the Red Rock 4-Wheelers-Cliff Meier: 8-31-13 to 9-2-13 - the 3-day run will be Beef Basin. They will be leaving from and coming back to Moab Rim Camp park – across the street from the Spanish Arena – South of Moab. Cliff will post more info on the website.

Dixon asked for volunteers to sponsor the rest of the meetings at the Church. Jennifer Chapin volunteered for March and I volunteered for April. Next he reminded everyone that in May, the club will start meeting at member's homes. He asked if anyone wanted to volunteer. Cliff and Jeanne Meier volunteered to host the May meeting, but we may not be happy if there happens to be a cold spell. There were no other hands going up, so Dixon said he will ask again next month.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:37 pm

Dixon asked everyone to thank Cliff and Jeanne Meier for being sponsors of our meeting tonight and bringing refreshments.

50/50 Raffle Winners: Jennifer Chapin - \$40

BE A TRAIL LEADER



President's Report

By Dixon Patrick

Well here we are and its February already. I know we normally have at least one ride a month, but not much has gone on. I even looked at the president's report for this time last year, and nothing. As we all know for our hobby to work it takes people and events, so help us out and lead a ride. I had SNOW the morning I write this, and we need to go snow or not.

I always plan to accomplish Jeep repairs in the winter, because summer is so hot in the garage. Now is it too cold, and it takes an hour to warm the garage. Not sure why, but it sure seems colder in the garage than outside, and the wind increases in speed under the Jeep. The tools stick to my hands when they're not rolling out of reach, then I am reminded that, I am broke at home and not on the trail. Being broke on the trail is not the end of the world but it is not the time to do maintenance that could have been accomplished prior to the ride. I know after 9 days in Silverton, the Jeep needed some TLC and I am still working so issues.

We have an incentive for new trail leaders, **5 points for first timers**. If you're looking to be a leader, ask around and find an active trail leader to plan a ride. Remember our meetings are as much clerical as they are social, so find someone you may not know and trade stories.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Frank Whiston

A couple weeks ago, Mark Werkmeister and I attended a meeting at the Socorro BLM office regarding the travel management plan for Gordy's Hill (which the BLM now wants to call Johnson Hill). In order to bring things into prospective since things progress so slowly within the government, I'll begin with a little history.

In the 2004-2006 timeframe, Mark worked diligently with the BLM to establish a trail system in the Gordy's Hill area. Mark mapped the whole area with BLM equipment, and "pioneered" some of the best routes by himself and the 'Rat Pack', a group of hardcore rock crawlers from around the country. As the BLM got closer to the Resource Management Plan being completed, Mike Bilbo (BLM Rec at the time) asked us to hold off on putting new tracks down on the rest of the proposed trails until after the RMP was officially approved. Unfortunately for us, Mike left the office prior to the RMP being completed. So.....many of the trails have never had tracks on them since we were waiting for them to be officially designated.

Fast forward about 4 years. July 28, 2010 Danita Burns, the Field Manager for the BLM Socorro Field Office released the approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) which provides guidance for managing approximately 1.5 million surface acres and 6 million acres of Federal mineral estate in Socorro and Catron Counties. The RMP Designated Gordy's Hill as a Special Resource Management Area (7,647 acres) for recreation uses, including OHV, races, and group events. The RMP also states that "Preliminary travel management plan networks will be developed for areas outside of WSAs within 5 years of the Record of Decision for this RMP (contingent upon available funding and staff resources). Priority areas for completing these travel management plans are as follows: **(1) Gordy's Hill**, (2) ACECs, (3) SRMAs, (4) SMAs, and (5) all other BLM-managed land."

That brings us to the present. A lot of time has passed and the public has been out using the routes and trails that were pioneered by our own Mark Werkmeister for up to 9 years now. The BLM has done surveys by various methods including studying aerial photos to see how the present condition compares to the route data that Mark provided years ago. Guess what; there are discrepancies! Mark didn't bother with mapping the many miles of sandy whoops that the motorcycles and ATV's had made, especially in the north part of the area. That explains much of the "discrepancy" between the 2004-05 mapping and the current trails. So, what does this mean?

The BLM must go through another NEPA process to perform the task underlined above. The good news is that the BLM has engaged the off-road community for help before NEPA. The BLM is asking us to re-trace all of the routes that have been driven and help the BLM classify them by vehicle type and difficulty level, using their GPS equipment. The bad news is that they do not want to include any of the not previously driven, proposed trails that we were asked to not drive on years ago.

The bottom line is that the BLM has invited us to be an active participant in this process. To date, I am not aware of a better opportunity for the off-road community to have a positive impact on the Travel Management process in the state of New Mexico until now. The question is, what will you make of it? Will the club stand up and get involved, or will the membership be apathetic and allow the BLM to make uninformed decisions that will affect the future of motorized recreation at Gordy's Hill?

Frank G. Whiston
NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.



2nd 30 Day Comment Period for the Carson Camino Real EA By Frank Whiston

The Legal Notice for the 2nd 30-day comment period on the Camino Real EA was published Jan 24th issue of the Taos News. Based on that publication date, the deadline for comments is midnight, Feb 25th.

A legal notice for comment was published in The Taos News on December 13, 2012. The Forest Service has decided to provide a second comment period that ends 30 days following the date of publication of this legal notice in The Taos News. This publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit comments on the proposed action. Those wishing to comment on this proposal should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source. Only those who provide comments or otherwise express interest in the proposed action during the comment period will be eligible to appeal the decision. Interest expressed or comments provided on this project prior to or after the close of this comment period will not constitute standing for appeal purposes. Comments must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 215.6. Those who provided written or email comments during the first comment period need not resubmit their previous comments.

Comments are to be submitted to Forest Supervisor, 208 Cruz Alta Road, Taos, NM 87571 (FAX: 575-758-6213). The submission of comments must include a name and address of the commenter and the title of the proposed actions "Travel Management- Camino Real Ranger District". Comments may be submitted by email in MS-Word (.doc or .docx), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), Adobe (.pdf), or hypertext markup language (.html) to: **commentssouthwesterncarson@fs.fed.us**. "Travel Management- Camino Real Ranger District" must be in the subject line of the email. Comments may also be hand delivered weekdays 8:00 am-4:30 pm at the above stated address. To be eligible for appeal, each individual or representative from each organization submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Names and addresses of commenters will become part of the public record, which is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

The link to the project documents is:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=25677>



NM4W Rockin' New Year's Eve Bash

(The Large Tire / More Adventurous Group)

By Lori Rector

This year the Rockin' New Year's Eve Bash was held on December 29, 2012. This is an annual event that is in its 5th or 6th year. Oh well, who's counting anyway? We use to camp out on this weekend and have a pot luck, but realized that it can be really cold this time of year and this year was especially true.

Some participants were new to the BLM area that we call Gordy's Hill. So, Jeff Boggs volunteered to meet them at the Phillips 66 at the Lemitar exit. It would be easier to do that than give directions on how to get there. I thought it would be a good idea if I were there too and Jeff Rector decided that he would too.

So, several of us met there at 7:30. I had said that we would leave there at 7:45 and we did. Temps were about 11-14 degrees (not sure if mine or Jennifer's were correct, but who's going to argue over 3 degrees?). I found out later that a couple of other people stopped there, but no one was there. Luckily they were familiar with Gordy's Hill and caught up with us at the staging area.

The following people were in attendance: Scott Cridge – 2013 Jeep Wrangler 2 door (brand new – had 160 miles on it), Carol Bevel & Russ Irwin – in his Toyota Tacoma, Andy Schulze & Theresa Chamas – '96 Jeep Cherokee, Jeff and Paul Boggs – '06 Jeep TJ Wrangler, Jeff Rector – 1984 Jeep CJ7, Lauri Rector – '12 Jeep Rubicon Unlimited, Mike Coe – '97 Jeep TJ Wrangler, Kristy Coe – '97 Jeep TJ Wrangler, Jack Dickey – '84 Chevy K3500 Trail Blazer

Jeff Boggs volunteered to lead the smaller tires, stock vehicles and anyone else who wanted to go with them. There were some places he wanted to explore that were more arroyos and wider places that everyone should have no problem with. Jeff Rector wanted to run Coyote Hills and "look" at Edge Canyon. Mike and Kristy wanted something more challenging and it was easy to talk Andy Schulze to come along. I knew I probably shouldn't, but just had to see if I could maneuver my Rubicon up Coyote Hills. So off we went. The rest of group was very surprised that I went off with them and had a moment of silence for my safe return.

Jeff Rector found the turn off for Coyote Hills right away. He normally has to turn around after about a 100 feet. We got off the main road and got into 4 low right away. Jeff only stopped and glanced at the 1st obstacle and took the by-pass. It looked bad, he's never made it, more obstacles ahead, so why waste any more time? The next obstacle is like a devils punch bowl with no by-pass (well, there is one, but it has a sign). Jeff went up made the turn, backed up to get the right line and went up. Andy was next and didn't do it quite that easy. I thought Kristy was going to rip her new top getting into to the punch bowl. I had serious doubts I could make it, even with a spot. Kristy finally got up and out after taking the hook. Jeff spotted me into it. I got 2 tries and a lot of rocks and had to take the hook, which didn't work until Jeff moved his Jeep. I got up, but it was really scary for a few seconds. This was my 1st at trying a ledge that high. Mike got up finally as well, but he too had to take the hook.



The next obstacle was another nasty little ledge too. Jeff got up again with no problem. Andy needed help. So, Kristy and I got our winch cables out and ready to go for when it was our turn. Kristy, me and Mike all 3 took the hook on this one as well.

The next ledge was even worse, but we all got up unaided. Andy took several tries. Kristy tried Andy's line and lost a flare and dented a fender before taking a spot and the suggestion of a different line. I had to let Jeff drive it up. After several tries, we found a position that I didn't hit my bumper on it (it's a stubby, it's a really short bumper!!!), but I couldn't get the rear tires to come up and over. Jeff was able to get it. Mike came up his own way and made up, with a little too much skinny peddle.

Next there was a smaller ledge after a very tight turn in the arroyo. Everyone maneuvered through this with ease, except for me. Jeff had to yell at me to back up and go straight for a little longer before turning and coming up the ledge.

A few feet after that, we get into much larger rocks with a tight turn and a tree. I'm sure Jeff made it right through and I don't think that Andy had too much trouble. But, there I was stuck right behind Kristy, bless her heart. Big tree on the right – trunk right on the edge of the trail and limbs way into the trail, left turn before you clear the tree, with a big rock on the left and one just past the turn on the right – both just big enough to cause body damage. Kristy got way up on the rock on the right and got a lot of air with her left tire – so much she was too close to vertical for my liking. I had to try about a dozen times before I made it and some spotting from Mike while he was still in his Jeep. I was doing that insanity thing where I was doing the exact same thing each time and was expecting a different result.

The next 2 obstacles are one right after the other and come right after you make it through a large boulder field. There is a big rock that is more like a slab with a tree on the right side, which most of it has been cut down. I have no idea what Jeff and Andy did going through this. Jeff has 40" tires, he makes it easily through a lot of things. Andy may have had to work on the ledge that comes right

after the big rock slab. Kristy, I got to watch. She worked her way to the right and into the tree, then she almost fell backwards. Then Jeff came to spot her and she got up it after a few more tries. Then I stood there analyzing this obstacle and the rocks before it as I listed to Kristy trying to get up the ledge. I had just enough time to realize that I had nothing more to prove that day. I was good. I had my fill of ledges and looking up at nothing but sky. So, I left Jeff drive my Rubicon up the next 2 obstacles. He went up that slab and barely spun a tire. This is what I've been seeing him do in my Rubicon and this is why I think that I can wheel it just about anywhere myself. The ledge caused him some problem, but he made it. Mike made it up with very little effort.



There is a narrow arroyo you can go up to get to the top or there is a by-pass. Jeff, Andy and Kristy started up the arroyo and Mike followed me up the bypass. Andy barely got started before he got hung up on a rock, then his Jeep died and it wouldn't start. He tried and tried to get it started and it wouldn't. So, Jeff drove back down, hooked the strap up to him and tried to pull him up to the top. It wouldn't go. So, he turned around and hooked the winch to him and that didn't work either. So, Kristy got around Andy and she hooked her winch to Jeff. That didn't work, so Kristy hooked her winch to Andy too and Jeff and Kristy finally got Andy to the

top of the hill. Andy checked fuses 1st, it's what he does when something doesn't work. It started right up. We had lunch in the warm sunshine and enjoyed the view and each other's company. Then we got back in our Jeeps to finish the trail, which was very uneventful.

The beginning of Edge is real close to where Coyote Hills comes out. So, we made the short, but fun drive to see Edge Canyon. When we got up to the exit of the trail, we all went up to the top to look down on the canyon, Jeff stayed on the arroyo and went into the canyon that way to see what it looked like. Andy hiked down and scoped it out with Jeff. It might have been doable, but Jeff decided that he would not take the chance. So we headed back out to the main road, just as Jeff's group was coming up the road.

Jeff was on his way to see another arroyo that he has spotted on previous trips. So, we all decided to stay together for the remainder of the day. We finally made it to a nice rocky play area. Jeff, Kristy, Mike, Jeff Boggs and Jack Dickey all played on the rocks while we watched.

We went back to the staging area and loaded up and aired up. A few of us stopped in town and enjoyed a beer and a really good meal and good conversation before we all headed back home and ended a very long, but very fun day!!!



Damages: Jeff Rector – none, Andy – exhaust fell off, Kristy – fender flare and dent in fender, possibly tore sheet metal and bent it in the wheel well, me – bent steer damper/stabilizer, Mike – minor body damage and scratches – since it had a fresh paint job, this was sad because it has already started the touch up paint process, and he had a tire that he could not air up, so we had to put his spare on it before heading over to Socorro Springs.



NM4W Rockin' New Year's Eve Bash

(The Smaller Tire / Sane Group)
By Jeff Boggs

This article describes the adventures of the second group of riders who went to Gordy's Hill for the NM4W Rockin' New Year's Eve Bash. I (Jeff Boggs) led the easy ride; Jeff and Lauri Rector were on the hard ride. Both groups met up together in the afternoon and tried a canyon area.

On 12/29/2012, the NM4Wheelers got together for an end of the year ride down at Gordy's Hill. Most of us met at the truck stop at Lemitar, NM, just off of I-25. Temps were double digits, yeah, 11 degrees!!!!, but sunny and no wind. It warmed to lower 40's by the end of the day. Last chance for warm coffee and gas!!! Off we went to the staging area at Gordy's Hill, to air down and plan our routes.

Joining Paula and Jeff Boggs (2006 LJ) on the easier trails were Scott Cridse (2013 JK Wrangler Sport, just purchased the day before), Jennifer Chapin (H3 Hummer), Ross Erwin

and Carol Bevel (Toyota), and Jack Dickey (1984 Chevy K5 Blazer). We would do the secondary roads and explore new routes in the area.

Joining Jeff Rector (modified 1984 CJ7) and Lauri Rector (2012 Rubicon Unlimited), on Coyote Hills, hard/extreme trail, were Andy Schulte and Theresa Chama (modified red Cherokee), Christy Coe (Jeep TJ), and Mike Coe (Jeep TJ). Mike and Christy were down from Utah for 2 weeks and really wanted to get to Gordy's for wheeling opportunities.

After dividing up, Jeff and Paula began with an immediate left turn from the staging area, up a hill in 4low. But WAIT.... Jack Dickey's Blazer would not start !! What the.....!! It was determined that his starter was hung in the flywheel. He thought his day was over, but we tried a tow strap and a pull, since he has a clutch. POW, it started up. After starting the Blazer a few more times, Jack decided the starter would be good. Cold temps were the probable cause. No more issues the rest of our day (It was too early to say that).

I did not let on that this was a beginning of an exploratory route to see if we could follow 2 tracks south, avoid the main dirt roads and connect with the road to the Barite mines area. Lots of sandy roads, up and down several hills, we worked our way south and finally hooked up with the road down to the Barite mines. We stopped there to explore the area, but noticed that Jennifer's front driver tire was very low. Found a leaky valve stem, tightened it, air was added, and we continued on down to a turn around area that has a great view down a slot canyon. Cattle were in the area and Carol's dog, Cota, told those cows that this was her area and barked orders for them to move away. The cattle moved on up the canyon without hesitation.

Our group headed back north for awhile and turned on a road that led us down into Upper Pucker Falls/Squeeze Canyon junction, above the hard stuff. We turned right and got to where several trails meet. This was a good lunch stop. Trails that meet there are Upper Pucker Falls, the Great Escape, Bad Hair Day, Hidden Valley, and Lower Cat Scratch (Fight?). After lunch, we went NE up Lower Cat Fight (Scratch?). Minor vehicle damage to Scott's new JK was a slightly modified left nerf bar, as he scraped it on a rock in the sandy dry stream bed.

We came out onto another secondary road and passed another mine site. Jack said, by looking at the tailings, they were mining copper from this area. We worked our way back to the main dirt road, and used our CB radios to locate Jeff and Lauri's group. They were at the entrance to Edge Canyon. They decided to hook up with us and we took them to a canyon that we had passed earlier. We went down in there and played around for a while.

The sun was getting low in the west, so it was time to head back to the staging area. There are many secondary dirt roads in the Gordy's Hill area and we have only just begun to tie them together. We will lead more easy rides down there to memorize/waypoint mark them. These roads all connect to the canyon trails, so this area is a series of loops.

After airing up, many of us headed into Socorro, NM to the Socorro Springs Brewery for some much deserved food and drink. We shared stories of the day and made plans to return. At least for all of us, Gordy's Hill is a good day trip from the Albuquerque area. As the weather warms up camping there is a good option, too.

NM4W Officers

President Dixon Patrick 271-9133 pr@nm4w.org	Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 vp@nm4w.org	Secretary Lauri Rector 891-8517 se@nm4w.org
Treasurer Jason Lavy 710-4928 tr@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 pc@nm4w.org	Historian Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 hi@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Frank Whiston 292-1541 de@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net

Web Site Administrator wa@nm4w.org

Newsletter editor ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



March 1, 2013

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2013

by Lauri Rector



It is the Day of Love and we are having a meeting at the Church.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by Frank G. Whiston, who was filling in for Mark Wolf, who was filling in for Dixon Patrick.

GUESTS: Josh Toles – '10 Jeep JK Unlimited

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Pat & Sue Brady, Jennifer Chapin, Guy Conway, Terry & Lucille Ellis, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob & Sandy Powell, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil Rodacy, Don Roy, Frank G. Whiston, Joan Wolf, Glenn & Rebagayle Vialpondo

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector: We had multiple motions come forward at the same time, one to dispense of the reading of the minutes and one for the minutes to be read. After way too much discussion, the motion for the minutes to be read did not pass and the motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes passed successfully. You can read the full meeting minutes in the Trail Tails posted on the website.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy: Bank balance is \$1,446.29. Motion successful passed to accept the treasurer report as read.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mark Wolf: Mark wasn't with us, but Frank figured that since there were no club runs since last month's meeting, there probably weren't any fines. He explained the point system to our guest, from earning points to become a member and the benefits of earning points after you are a member.

KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!!

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston: Frank met with the Socorro BLM recently. The BLM land use committee there has completed a resource management plan. This is a 5 year plan of identifying trails for OHV use. The BLM explained to Frank that the Gordy Hill area is to become a special recreation management area for OHV use. The name will be changed to Johnson Hill because the BLM cannot name it after someone who is alive. And even though Mark Werkmeister spent hours walking and mapping out possible trails and then drove over most of those trails, BLM is now saying that these maps are dated and they need new data. They also need for the difficulty levels to be identified for each trail and to know what can use the trail. If you have time to go down there, stop by the BLM office and get one of their tracking devices. Frank has contact info. There may be training sessions on how to use this equipment. Frank said that the BLM have some ideas that could be very good, such as a kiosk at the staging area where you scan a map into your smart phone. You will have the map of the area, trails, and other information on your phone. Some of the attendees at this meeting were Rick Alcon, game & fish.

Carson reopened the comment period on their Environmental Assessment.

NMOHVA has some bills going through the house – one in senate and one in the house. These bills will change the laws on ATVs and UTV's use on roads to go into towns and get gas and lodging when they are using nearby system of trails. This is needed for trails that go on for very many miles and would help generate additional revenue in the towns. Call your representative and show your support for these bills.

**Keep PUBLIC lands open
to the PUBLIC**

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs:

PAST EVENTS:

The Bob Gerding Outdoor show was held over the past weekend. Jeff Boggs talked about the booth and the maps that were posted at the booth. The reaction from a lot of the people was surprise on how many trails would be closed and how the camping would be restricted. Many hunter's comments on how the area that they like to hunt is far away from where they have to camp and limited trails to get there. Thanks to Jennifer Chapin for printing the maps.

BE A TRAIL LEADER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 20th – 23rd - Chile Challenge: Registration is on-line at the Chile Challenge website. It is about \$175 this year. Cliff Meier has raffle tickets – prizes are a winch from Warren – a set of tires from Goodyear.

March – Jeep Safari in Moab – Cliff has information packets if anyone is interested.

May 8th –16th - Moab–Cliff Meier: The 8th will be for traveling to Moab. May, 9, 10, 11 they will wheel in Moab area – wherever everyone wants to go – it depends on who is there and where people are interested in going. On Sunday they will head to the Green River and then to the San Rafael Swell area. Guy Conway suggested that if you get bad gas mileage, you might want to bring extra gas if you are going on Sunday. Reservations have been made at Canyonland RV Park. They have cabins there too. Information is on the web-site.

May 18th – Go Topless Day – TRAIL LEADER NEEDED: Frank Whiston found information on this day on the Everything Jeeps website. This is a nationwide event that they invented. He needs a leader that will lead this on the trail of their choosing.

June 1st – Cedro Peak – Jennifer Chapin: Meet at Smiths on Tramway. There will be a raffle. Check the website for more details.

All 4-Fun – see club website calendar for info – there is a link to that website.

Labor Day: Campout in Moab.

Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site – it is continually updated and will have all of the information you need!!!

NEW TRAIL LEADERS WILL EARN 5 POINTS FOR THEIR 1ST TRAIL LEAD THIS YEAR

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell: Tracey brought club swag with him for sale. 50/50 raffle has a pot of \$96. The club's 50% of the 50/50 is still going to NMOHVA.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Vialpondo: On the club's website, you can go to the gallery and see pictures of old club runs. You can post pictures to the gallery too.

WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy: Don reminded us that you can post multiple vehicles on the website. RV's, tow vehicles and such. Remember, the pictures that you post are viewable by the public.

EDITOR'S REPORT –Phil Rodacy: Keep sending in articles.

OLD BUSINESS: The discussion to purchase four color club logo shirts was tabled last month. Jeanne Meier suggested that we could take a count or pre-orders. Tracy Bakewell will get pricing so we will know exactly what our cost will be to buy a shirt. Tracey thinks that we will need to order at least 25. Frank asked Don to set up a poll on the Website to see how many would be interested in purchasing one. Frank will get the logo to Don to post on the website. Then there was discussion about the color of the shirt and the size of the logo.

NEW BUSINESS:

Summer meetings – host volunteers:

May meeting will be at the Meiers on the 1st Saturday of May.

June 8th is reserved for the club picnic at the Oak Flats open space – same area as the last couple of years. Motion passed successfully for the \$74 fee to rent the facility. Joan Wolf then asked for \$150 bucks for hot dogs, buns and various picnic supplies. This also passed successfully.

Bob & Carol Provance volunteered to host the July meeting.

Glenn & Rebagayle Viopando's spoke up to host the September meeting.

Jeff Boggs will host the August meeting

No eligible guests for voting in as members were present this evening.

Jeff Boggs cited dealers that have our club business cards and NMOHVA cards and support both clubs: Desert Rat, 4-Wheeler Parts, Mesa CB, and Trucks Unique. Keep this in mind when you need to buy parts for your 4X4.

Thanks to Joan Wolf for hosting our meeting tonight and bringing goodies and drinks for us.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:48ish pm

50/50 Raffle Winners: T-Shirt – Sue Brady (funny - Pat Brady pulled the ticket)

\$48 – Guy Conway (who asked that it be passed onto NMOHVA)



President's Report

By Dixon Patrick

Snow has finally hit the mountains in a big way, I was thinking of a Cedro Peak run but I see we got one in 3 weeks. The unpredictability of weather may give us snow or mud for that run. No matter what the conditions, it reminds me of the importance of having recovery gear and knowing how to use it. We are looking at some refresher instruction on recovery gear in the spring, so watch your calendar.

To give our outings into the woods another reason to be there I want to give a 15 minute class on Geocaching at the next meeting. I figure we can have the meeting and then all who want to check it out can move to a corner. I will have some examples of a "Cache" and if you want to get a heads-up check out www.geocaching.com.

I was out of town for the meeting because my current projects require about 20+ trips a year. This has been a real challenge to make the meeting and get much done in between. We are about 4 months out for elections, and I really want people to start thinking about becoming an officer. We need some "new blood" here, please come talk to one of us on the duties, you can also look at the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), Article III, Duties of Officers. You really get connected in a different way and it is rewarding. I will admit that when a situation comes up that is a bit odd, the past officers are a wealth of knowledge.

We have an incentive for new trail leaders, **5 points for first timers**. If you're looking to be a leader, ask around and find an active trail leader to plan a ride. Remember our meetings are as much clerical as they are social, so find someone you may not know and trade stories.



Vice President's Soap Box

By Mark Wolf

As your Vice President I wanted to let you all know that I am unfortunately going to be absent for quite a bit this year from at least part of my duties. This thing called work has gotten in the way of Club functions, but this other thing called a paycheck seems to rule everything I (we) do at our house. Work is in Raton right now and then maybe Angel Fire, so I'm not going to be around until the summer meetings begin. I guess that's really only two more months now that I think about it. Wow! Is this year going fast.

I wanted to remind everyone that this is a Four Wheel Drive club and functions related to Four Wheel Drive are pretty much what we do! However, I, like Jeff Boggs, are really disappointed with the lack of Trail Leaders and the number of (or really lack of) runs there are on the calendar. There are so many places that we need to visit before anything else

happens to them. You know, there are all kinds of trails out there and Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and even California have some remarkable trails that are well within a day's drive. You can look at Charles A. Wells' book(s) for each of these areas and pick out some trails there to go wheeling on. They don't all have to be hard! Most folks would rather just be going out than doing hard trails (ie...breaking stuff). It is time some of you that have never lead before to pick a trail and lead it. The Officers offered 5 points to the first time leader and only two people have stepped up. There are approximately 60 members in this club and each one should be leading a trail at least once a year. With that in mind, there would be a minimum of 5 years on the books of trails to be lead! Also, what about those \$100 certificates for most points and most trails lead? Running the Caballo Mountain trail backwards would be a blast, because forward is a bunch of fun! Come on folks! Lead a trail...PLEASE!!! If you don't know where a trail is, ask! Someone will give you all the info you need to lead it!

If there are no trails being run, how am I supposed to belittle someone and fine them for inappropriate actions while wheeling? It makes the office of Sheriff no fun!

Also, we owe the Route 66 Four Wheelers of Gallup a host for a run, campout and cookout. Somewhere in the Jemez would be fine, but we need someone to spearhead it and get it set up. Think about it. These folks lead us on a trail run, campout, cookout (best breakfast and dinner ever!) and good trails for several years. They are a small club and they all pitched in quite well. It's time the New Mexico 4 Wheelers show them what we're all about! Please step up and volunteer! You will get all kinds of help. That I know for sure!

Thanks! See you in May!

Your VP, Wolfie



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Frank Whiston

With all of the access issues that the public is facing, we need to remember that we are not in opposition to the people who work for the agencies that administer our public lands. We want to make our point, but need to keep it civilized and make sure that folks do not take it personal. This is important during meetings with the agencies as well as our own meetings. As many may not be aware, we do have a few club members who work for the agencies who administer or provide input to managing our public lands. Let's not make our gatherings uncomfortable for those members.

I would like to encourage the NM4W members to attend the NMOHVA Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 31. Details are on the [club calendar](#) where members can sign up and see who else is attending. This is a great opportunity to see what is going on in terms of current access issues in New Mexico as well as a review of the accomplishments over the past year.

Hope to see you there.



for helping at the Bob Gerdings Show

By Mark Werkmeister

First of all, I wanted to take the time to thank each of the volunteers for manning the NMOHVA booth at the Gerdings show. The response to NMOHVA's message was positive and significant.

In addition to continuing to educate the general public on what has happened on the SFNF, we made several potentially important contacts that will help us continue to spread the message. Your willingness to step up and spend part of your very valuable weekend for the good of all of us is very much appreciated.

Special thanks to Jennifer for providing us with the maps for the show. They proved to be a very effective "attention-getter" and made a huge impression on the people that reviewed them.

And last, but most assuredly not least, thanks go to Chris who did an OUTSTANDING job of identifying the show opportunity, getting all of the necessary arrangements made, providing the booth set-up and break-down, supplying most of the components in the booth, AND manning the booth for both Friday and Saturday.

You all did NMOHVA proud.

Thanks.



Bob Gerdings Outdoor Show

By Jeff Boggs

The NMOHVA booth was set great. The Maps were "the pictures that are worth a thousand words." People stopped in their tracks when they saw the loss of camping areas, especially when they that they may have to camp a long way from their hunting areas.



up

saw

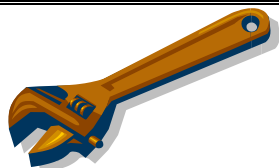
On Sunday we spent some time talking with a gentleman who has a ranch in the Jemez Mountains. He fought last year's fire. He blamed the fire on the lack of logging, stopped by the radical enviro's, years ago. He said that the forest has grown thick with trees and the forest service is to blame for not keeping it healthy. He said that there were fire fighting crews on the scene within 15 minutes of the reported fire, but the intensity, even by then was huge. Already too late to enter the area.

He said the fact that the forest service did not go in the Cerro Grande fire area and clean it up, left fuel for this next fire to burn again.

The Forest Service is not fit to manage our public lands!!!! He said that yesteryear's forest rangers were much more open to the need for well managed logging of the national forests.

Closing these areas off and letting "Nature take it's course" is impossible, because these forests were logged a century ago. They are not natural anymore. They must now be tended to as one would tend a large Garden. Paths, aka roads, and trails to access all areas are needed. Cleaning up dead fall, thinning, pruning, replanting, harvesting, fire breaks, etc. are crucial. All trees would receive more water, if there were less of them.

Thanks for listening, again thanks for stepping up and continuing to get the word out.



Winter Break Project

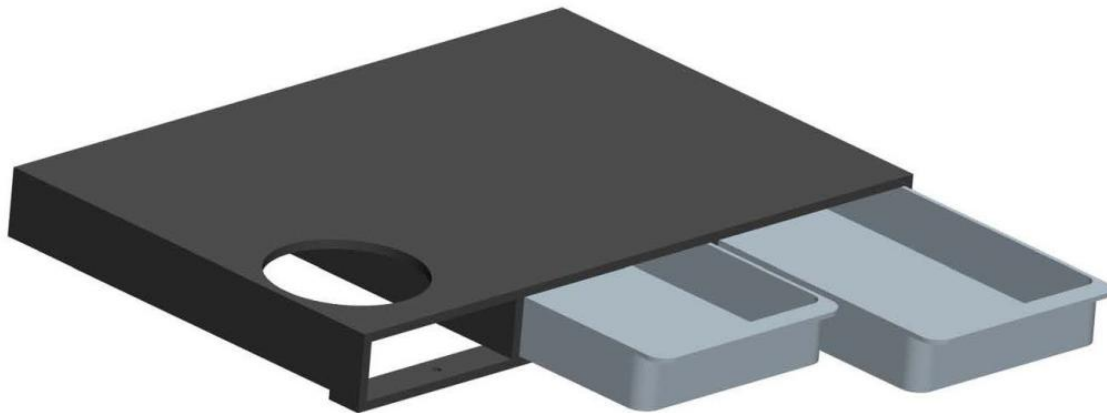
By Frank Whiston

Since there has been a lack of club runs to report on, I thought that I would share a little project that I did on the Jeep between Christmas and New Year's. So, I picked up a tool set on Black Friday to expand the tools that I carry in the Jeep. The set that I had been carrying just has 1/4 and 3/8 drive sockets, where I need to get into the 1/2 drive to get the larger sizes on the Jeep. I found out that what I was carrying to be inadequate



when my dad lost a bolt securing a lift bracket to the frame of his Jeep on Imogene Pass last summer. I had a bolt, but no wrench big enough to turn it. Here is [the set](#) that I picked up for \$99. I initially thought that the case it came in would work well in the back of the LJ,

but it is just not a good size for the constraints that I have. I carry a CO2 tank standing near the tailgate on the drivers-side of the cargo area. I also carry a ~12x20x16 cooler and a basket for dry food. I will also note that I have re-located the back seat rearward 3" to gain more room needed for 4 passengers. Plan A was to make a platform that would accept the drawers from the tool box that came with the tool set, but the size of the drawers would not work with the space that I have. I found some fiberglass pans that are the right size to make some drawers from [McMaster-Carr](#). I ordered two of the Heavy Duty Fiberglass Pan Stackable, 23-3/8" Length X 12" Width X 3-1/8" Height as they are the perfect size to fill the floor next to the CO2 bottle. I was a little nervous ordering these essentially sight unseen as the generic picture from the website did not tell much. When the pans arrived, I was very pleased with the size and quality of them. They should work out perfectly. Now I was able to leverage my professional training to assist with visualization of what I wanted my platform to look like. So, I made a CAD 3D model of the platform that I wanted to build.



The platform was fabricated out of 1/2" thick plywood and painted with truck bed coating that is available in a spray can. The small strip under the pans will attach to the two bolts in the Jeep tub currently securing the car seat "latch" tabs. The platform will cover the entire cargo area with the exception of the cutout for the CO2 bottle. By locking the tailgate, even with the top off, my tools should be secure enough for keeping the honest people honest. The hole in the platform is to accept the CO2 bottle. The Quickfist clamp that I am using to secure the bottle has a base that will allow for the thickness of the plywood on the side of the tub. I have room for the strip along the bottom because in 2004, the carpet had a very thick mat in effort to make the interior more quiet. I believe that this was unique to 2004 and it was dropped for the more traditional thin carpet in later model years. The carpet mat will keep the drawers fitting snug in the openings of the platform.

To secure the other end of the platform, I tied into the footman loops that are in the cargo floor. In the picture, you can see the small turnbuckles that attach to the metal strips which screw into the platform. The back seat will cover all of this. It is not ultimate



security, but it would take someone a while to get anything out of here. The main objective was out-of-the-way organization for tools and recovery equipment.



Since the bulk of the fabrication was done, I went ahead and loaded the drawers to see how things will fit. The tray on the left has the Lowes tool set as well as a few additional tools that I was already carrying. I still need to make some pouches to contain the wrenches and ensure that they are rattle-free. The right tray has my tow strap, receiver D-Ring, winch controller and additional D-rings. Everything is fitting quite well. The black material that I used is UHMW polyethylene which I picked up from the scrap pile at the local plastic supply company. It will provide a nice slick surface for the trays to slide on.

At this point, my project was stalled for a couple of weeks, so I did not finish by New Year's as planned. It was too cold to paint it! So, a few weeks passed and it finally warmed up enough to paint. After paint, I installed a thin piece of aluminum angle to protect the back edge of the platform and installed it in the Jeep.



NM4W Officers

President Dixon Patrick 271-9133 pr@nm4w.org	Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 vp@nm4w.org	Secretary Lauri Rector 891-8517 se@nm4w.org
Treasurer Jason Lavy 710-4928 tr@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 pc@nm4w.org	Historian Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 hi@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Frank Whiston 292-1541 de@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net

Web Site Administrator wa@nm4w.org

Newsletter editor ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



April 1, 2013

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2013

by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held March 14th at Heights Presbyterian Church.

Don Roy called the meeting to order at 7:02. Patrick Dixon, President, and Mark Wolf, Vice-President were both out of town. Don indicated that Dixon wasn't sure if there was a host for the meeting so he asked Jason Lavy to bring refreshments. However, Jennifer Chapin was the host and so there were two sets of refreshments.

Guests: Ken Hanks, Bruce Ford, Karen Morant, Robert Gill, Ken Tinker, Josh Toles, Scott Cridge.

Members Present: Jeff Boggs, Jennifer Chapin, Craig Courtright, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavy, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Bob and Carol Provance, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Linda and Mike Sells, Mark Werkmeister, Joan Wolf and Tahoe Zahn.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: Lauri Rector was not present. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Jason Lavy: Jason reported a balance of \$1377.46.

Vice President Report – Joan Wolf and Don Roy: Mark Wolf, Vice-President, was not present. Joan announced that Mark had printed off the list of members and their points. The lists were on table on the east side of the room. Don Roy reviewed the points system and fines. In the way of fines it was decided that Dixon Patrick should have a fine for forgetting who was to bring refreshments. Dixon wasn't present so the fine will be assessed at the next meeting.

**Keep PUBLIC lands open
to the PUBLIC**

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Frank Whiston, Director Environmental Affairs, was not present so Mark volunteered to do a report.

New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance (NMOHVA) Annual Meeting is March 30, Sat, 9:00 am 7425 Jefferson St NE. Be sure to attend.

Santa Fe National Forest/NMOHVA lawsuit status. The first brief is due around May 1st and then subsequent steps will occur in 30 day increments.

Choke Cherry/Glade area Farmington, New Mexico. Plan is in the comment period. All comments are due April 5th. The preferred alternative has a non-motorized corridor through the middle of the motorized area.

Trip Chairman's Report – Jeff Boggs: Jeff reported that new trail leaders can get 5 points so if you have not led a trail this is a great opportunity to get points.

Past Events:

February 19th-23rd Chile Challenge, Las Cruces. Cliff Meier reported that attendance was down with about 150 vehicles. This is probably below their breakeven point. Part of the issue is increased costs due to substantial increases in insurance and the BLM permit. The Las Cruces club will be deciding in the next couple of months whether to hold Chile Challenge next year. They are also deciding whether to host the SWFWDA winter quarterly meeting and raffle.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

March 23rd Cedro Peak – Cliff Meier indicated that this will be a 3 to 4 hour easy run. Check the website.

March 30th NMOHVA Annual Meeting – 9:00 AM 7425 Jefferson Street NE

April ? La Bajada – Jeff Boggs is planning a run sometime in April. Watch the website.

April 11th April Meeting at the Church 7:00 PM

April 19th-21st SWFWDA Spring Quarterly – Alamogordo NM. Desert Mountain Four Wheel Drive Club is hosting the meeting for SWFWDA. It will probably be Saturday morning. We will be exploring the area Friday and Saturday. Check the website for more information.

May 4th 5:00 pm May Summer Meeting – Home of Cliff and Jeanne Meier. This is the first meeting at member's homes and is a pot luck. Check the website for details and directions.

May 8th-16th Moab and Green River Utah. Travel to Moab on Wednesday May 8th. Guy Conway will lead runs Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Sunday we will move to Green River Utah and explore the San Rafael Swell Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. It is possible that there will be additional days in Green River depending on interest and Guy Conway's schedule. Check website for more information.

- May 18th World Wide Go Topless Day. Frank Whiston was not present. Check the website for more information as it becomes available.
- June 1st Susan G Komen Ride for the Cure, Cedro Peak – Jennifer Chapin indicated things are progressing. Check the website for more details as it becomes available.
- June 8th Annual Club Picnic – Joan and Mark Wolf have reserved the Locust site at the Oak Flat Picnic grounds. Come any time after 4:00, we'll eat at 5:00. Plans are for the club to supply hamburgers and hot dogs and members should supply a side dish. Check the website site for more information.
- July 13th July Meeting – Provance's home. Check the website for more details and directions.
- July 26-28th SWFWDA Summer Quarterly Meeting – Ozark Mountain 4X4 Club will host the summer meeting for SWFWDA at Southern Missouri Off Road Ranch. Check the website or swfwda.org for details.
- July 28th-Aug 4th Denver Mile-Hi All-4-Fun Leadville - The Denver Mile-Hi Jeep club holds this event annually at different locations. This year is at Leadville, CO. Visit their website mhjc.org or contact Cliff Meier for more information.
- August 10th August meeting – Boggs home – Check the website for more details and directions.
- Aug 31st-Sept 2nd Moab Red Rock 4-Wheelers Labor Day Event. - Watch the website for more information.

Program Chairman's Report – Tracy Bakewell: Tracy was not present so there was no report, merchandise or the 50/50 raffle.

Historian's Report – Glenn Vialpando: Glenn was not present so there was no report.

Web Master – Don Roy: Don reported that he had fixed a bug but there was nothing else to report.

Old Business:

5 color shirts: A couple of months ago Tracy Bakewell presented a patch design that had been used in the past and suggested the club purchase some shirts with that pattern. Since most shirts require a minimum purchase which the club usually fronts the money for and the treasury is low the decision was to wait until the summer. However, a poll was setup on the club event page to find out how many members would be willing to pre-purchase the shirts. Members are encouraged to express their opinion. If there is enough interest then prepaid orders will be taken.

Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site – it is continually updated and will have all of the information you need!!!

New Business:

New Members: After some research it was determined that Scott Cridge had enough points for membership and was present. A motion was made to offer Scott membership in NM4W. Motion Passed. No other eligible candidates were present at the meeting.

Summer Meetings: A discussion of dates for the summer meeting took place. The May meeting was scheduled for May 4th but Dixon indicated he would not be able to be there and asked if it could be changed to May 18th, after Moab. Cliff and Jeanne Meier indicated that was the only weekend they could host the meeting. It was left on the 4th unless someone else wants to host the meeting. Bob and Carol Provance announced the July meeting would be on July 13th. Jeff Boggs needed to check his schedule for August before selecting the dates and Glenn Vialpando was not present.

Election of Officers: Dixon wanted Don Roy to remind everyone that the election of officers is in July. Since Dixon's job now requires a lot of travel, he does not feel he can accept the job next year. In addition, it is always good to see some new faces. If you are interested in being an officer or have questions contact Dixon Patrick.

Don thanked Jennifer Chapin for hosting the meeting and Jason Lavy for the other refreshments.

Meeting was adjourned.

Hosts for Upcoming Meetings:

April	Lauri and Jeff Rector
May	Cliff and Jeanne Meier
June	Mark and Joan Wolf, Company Picnic
July	Carol and Bob Provance
August	Jeff and Paula Boggs
September	Glenn and Rebagayle Vialpando

**NEW TRAIL LEADERS WILL EARN 5 POINTS FOR THEIR
1ST TRAIL LEAD THIS YEAR**



President's Report

By Dixon Patrick

Several of us went on a ride to Cedro Peak, with spring in the air, and the sun on our back. The attendance count was approaching 20 vehicles and many were prospective members. After a slow winter this year, this was a great way to get the year started. Cliff will have a full report later.

Remember to welcome prospective and new members to our club and events.

Many of us attended the NMOHVA annual meeting. Thanks to those who attended, as this is the organization that is fighting for us with the forest service. The efforts to limit access to public lands are happening all over the US, but NMOHVA is one of two organizations that are suing to regain our lands. It was reported that of all public lands, over 60% has some sort of designation on it. We cannot allow it to be slowly taken. I keep hearing, "well when I was growing up, we....." I want to hear "I helped the fight by....." So NMOHVA will have events this year, we will post all we can.

They will need people to man the both, get the word out, help in trail maintenance. Many view out sport as the videos on YouTube, you know the ones, and we need to change that perspective.

At the next meeting, be sure to shop the good supply of T shirts and ball caps. Get yours while there is a good selection to show off our club on the runs this year. Tracy needs a good turnover to be able to get new stuff. Let him now if you have some item you would like to see available for sale.

Start thinking about who the NM4W Outstanding Member of the year could be. We vote by secret ballot for the person of his/her choice to be "Outstanding Member at the June picnic. The objective is to recognize a club member that has significantly contributed to the club and/or the 4X4 sport in the past year. For the past couple of years the voting has been pretty light. Last year we voted online to allow people who could not make the Picnic. The winner will be awarded with a trophy, plaque, or certificate.

ELECTION of OFFICERS:

Send ME your "Letter of Intent" an e-mail is fine, and name of a position you would like to hold. You can nominate someone or yourself either by sending me an e-mail, jdpatrick@sandia.com, or at the July meeting. If you have any questions, ask a current officer or check out the Club SOP for duties.

We will have the election of officers at the July meeting and the new officers will take the lead in August. Each year not many members volunteer to run for office. As a result the same group tends to rotate the officer positions year after year. While the club is very appreciative of this dedicated group, **new blood and ideas**, is needed. This helps keep a club strong. So, please think about volunteering. All the officer positions are open for election each year. I have served for two terms as Vic President and one as President. My current travel schedule will not allow me to reliably attend the Thursday meetings.

There are a number of runs and events coming up. Check out the calendar on the website but have room for more. We have the Big Foot Ruin unless they do not open the forest from the winter. And the "Hero's Walk Among Us" ride. This is not a club ride in the normal way, but an opportunity to say thanks to our veterans and get them out to see the scenic area of the Rio Puerco.



Vice President's Soap Box

By Mark Wolf

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Frank Whiston

Three points to talk about this month. First is the comment period for the Farmington BLM Travel Management on the Glade area ends April 5. This is impacting a world class 4WD and rock crawling area.

Next is that President Obama signed proclamations a week ago designating five national monuments. The largest monument by far is the 243,000-acre Rio Grande del Norte, a rugged river gorge and plateau in northern New Mexico that Obama described as a "stark and sweeping expanse" of canyons, volcanic cones, wild rivers and native grasslands. It will be managed by the Bureau of Land Management as part of the National Landscape Conservation System.

Environmentalists have called the area one of the most ecologically significant in the state, citing its importance to elk, bald eagles, peregrine falcons and great horned owls. This is hard to believe given that the area is predominately flat area covered in sage brush. The Rio Grande Gorge and Taos Plateau are also used extensively by hunters, rafters and hikers.

"The protection of the Río Grande del Norte will preserve its cultural, prehistoric, and historic legacy and maintain its diverse array of natural and scientific resources, ensuring that the historic and scientific values of this area remain for the benefit of all Americans," Obama said in his proclamation.

While new mining and oil and gas leasing will be prohibited, valid existing rights, including transmission rights of way, will be maintained, in addition to grazing and the traditional collection of firewood and piñon nuts for personal noncommercial use, the proclamation states. Sounds rather benign, but history shows that NM declarations have almost always lead to increased restrictions for motorized recreation.

Finally, I'd like to thank those from NM4W who attended the NMOHVA annual meeting ☺. NMOHVA has had a big year, yet faces many challenges into the future.



Cedro Peak Run

By Cliff Meier

On Saturday morning, March 23, 22 tough folks in 17 vehicles met at the Sandia Ranger Station parking lot. Forecasted cold and wind notwithstanding, we were on our way to Cedro Peak! As it worked out it was a little cool and the wind held off until we finished. Take note you wind wimps who stayed home! We had 5 club member vehicles and 12 guests.

We had a couple of surprises! The first was that our Forest Service has been at work on the full size vehicle roads, they had taken a road grader and “maintained” about half the roads we are allowed to use in the Cedro area, FR 462 and parts of FR12 and 13. Now these roads are rock, ledge and rut free. In other words, you can take 2 wheel drives anything on them. It’s really great to see our tax \$ at work, **not!** You might ask why did they do this? After I dry ran the run earlier in the week, I visited the Ranger Station and asked them. The employee behind the desk knew exactly what I was going to ask before I got 6 words out! She said, “It was a big mistake, the grader driver thought he was supposed maintain the road and that they would not ever do that again”. So from now on runs around Cedro area will be known as Cedro Road runs! The other surprise was that our fearless trail leader started the run from the east end of FR 462, off the Bartula Baca Rd (near the Zuzak I-40 Exit) not the usual west end which is south of the Ranger Station. We all aired down and used the facilities at the trailhead.



The overall route was a sort of figure 8 with a short drive down Juan Thomas Rd at the top. We proceeded up FR 462 through a patchwork of Forest Service and private lands. We went through the area where the controlled burns have been this winter. After a short while we

intersected FR 13 and continued on the upper ridge to FR 252, right below the radio towers and fire watch station. After a short stop at the group picnic area on 252 we continued on to Juan Thomas Rd and then on back to the stair steps on FR 242.

After spending some time there we went back to the picnic area for lunch. After lunch we proceeded back to FR 13 and back tracked to the 4x4 Meadow Ridge all vehicle trail that connected with FR 12 in the lower valley. Didn't need to worry about the normal deep ruts on 12; they have been completely graded over. We then looped back up to FR 462 and continued to the Chamisoso Trailhead beside Hwy 337 (old 66). With the exception of some CB problems, the intrepid trail leader's new professionally installed antenna squealed like a banshee! It was later figured out when a loose antenna grounds itself, it doesn't work very well! But Overall it was great day!



NM4W Officers

President Dixon Patrick 271-9133 pr@nm4w.org	Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 vp@nm4w.org	Secretary Lauri Rector 891-8517 se@nm4w.org
Treasurer Jason Lavy 710-4928 tr@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 pc@nm4w.org	Historian Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 hi@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Frank Whiston 292-1541 de@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net

Web Site Administrator wa@nm4w.org

Newsletter editor ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



May 1, 2013

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2013

by Lauri Rector



This was the last meeting of the 12-13 winter season that will be held at the church. Meeting will be held at member's homes for the next few months.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Frank G. Whiston, who was filling in for Mark Wolf, who was to fill in for Dixon Patrick.

GUESTS: Patrick & Susan McCool – 79 FJ40 & 92 Ranger, Dan Johnson – '80 CJ7 & '12 Rubicon, James & Deborah Taylor – 2011 Jeep Wrangler, Paul Mariscal - '90 TJ, Paul Vasaturo - '05 Grand Cherokee, Donnie Walker – Jeep Wrangler Paul Ward – '06 Jeep, Sandra Maggruder (sorry, but I missed what her rig was) and Mike Blohm – '03 Rubicon. Other guests that did not stand up and introduce their selves: Bruce Ford, Gary Hirokawa, Daniel Montano, Daniel Hardy

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Pat & Sue Brady, Richard Brooks, Jennifer Chapin, Craig Courtwright, Scott Cridge, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Linda Jurey, Thomas & Jenni Lavigne, Jason Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Don Roy, Mike & Linda Sells, Frank & Beth Whiston, Frank & Donna Whiston, Joan Wolf, Mark Werkmeister.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector: I was not prepared. I was not present last month and didn't do the minutes. I did have a copy of them, but forgot to pull them up and have them ready. Everyone voted to suspend the reading of the March Meeting Minutes. You can read them on line if you want or if you have insomnia.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy: \$1,031.61 Motion successful passed to accept the treasurer report as read.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mark Wolf: Frank filled in for Mark this month. He did a fine job of explaining the points system for both prospective members and members and the awards for the most points. You can find details in the by-laws and SOP's if you need to know more. Jeannie tried to fine Cliff for a non-working CB on the Cedro Peak Run. I tried to defend him, but Jeannie said there was a squeal when he talked on it – which he did a lot since he was the leader.

**Keep PUBLIC lands open
to the PUBLIC**

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston: NMOHVA had their annual meeting at the end of March. Discussions on the past year and what had been accomplished and plans for the upcoming year.

Recent update on the NMOHVA lawsuit with the Santa Fe National Forest in regard to the new Travel Management Plan map that will soon be published: Several groups and organizations have filed as interveners in this lawsuit – so that the forest can settle with NMOHVA out of court. They are The Center for Biological Diversity, Wild Earth Guardians and the Sierra Club. Recently the Forest has had to provide Administrative Record (AR) index to NMOHVA for review. These are the documents used to make their decision on what trails will be open and be on the Travel Management map. There were 1200 documents provided. However, NMOHVA has requested that all (AR) documents be included and provides a list of the missing documents. After the administrative records are agreed upon, NMOHVA will give the courts their Opening Brief. Then the Santa Fe Forest will give their Response Brief. Then NMOHVA will file their Reply Brief. By August, there should be oral arguments, at the judge's discretion.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs:

PAST EVENTS:

Cedro Peak Run – Cliff Meier Ran Rather than using the normal route, Cliff ran the trail backwards for something different. Large sections have been smoothed out by road grader. Nothing eventful happened.

BE A TRAIL LEADER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 14th – La Bajada Hill – Jason Lavy – Meet at Lowe's at Paseo and I-25 at 8:30am.

April 20th – Big Foot Run – Dixon Patrick – Dixon wasn't present. Details on web site

April 19th & 20th – Spring Quarterly – Alamagordo – details on web site

April 28th – Dirt Fest – combined group of ATV and NM4W – details on website for members only

May 4th – May Meeting – at the Meiers home: Pot Luck starts at 5pm and meeting afterward. Bring your own chair. Directions on the web-site

May 8th – 16 – Moab and Green River and San Rafael Swell – Cliff Meier: Travel on the 8th and then on the 9th – 11th there will be trail rides in the Moab area – to be decided each morning. Then

on the 12th, those who want to can travel to the San Rafael Swell/Green River area and then there will be trail rides on the 13th – 15th. See web site for details.

May 4th – 11th – Moab – Dixon Patrick Contact him if you're interested in these dates

May 12th – TM Lemonade Run – Frank Whiston: He posted the run after the April meeting, but I'm putting it in the minutes. Check the website for details.

May 18th – Go Topless Day – TRAIL LEADER NEEDED: Frank Whiston found information on this day on the Everything Jeeps website. This is a nationwide event that they invented. He needs a leader that will lead this on the trail of their choosing. I'm going to try to lead La Ventana. Now that the map has come out, I need to look to see if this trail is open. I thought everything in the Cuba district was to be closed. Check the web site for updates.

June 1st – Cedro Peak – Jennifer Chapin: Meet at Smiths on Tramway at 8:30am. There will be a raffle. Check the website for more details and last minute updates for weather information. This is a fund raiser for Susan G. Kohman. The website has instructions for donating if you are so inclined

June 8th – June Meeting at the Oakflat Picnic area. You can arrive anytime after 4pm. Meeting to start right after the 5 pm meal is done.

June 23rd – Big Foot Print - in the making – look for details to come

July 13th – July Meeting at the Provance Home: Pot Luck to start at 5:00pm. Directions are on the web site.

July 26th – 28th - Summer Quarterly – Southern Missouri Off Road Ranch – info on web site.

July 20th – Casa Jeep Jam – Coors – Date set, detail to follow. Check web site for updates and a link to a blurb about last year's event.

August 8th - All 4-Fun – Leadville CO see club website calendar for info – there is a link to that website.

August 31st – September 2nd - Labor Day Campout in Moab – Red Rock 4-Wheelers – registration info to be published around the 1st of June.

August 10th – August Meeting at the Boggs home in area BFE of Rio Rancho.

September meeting at Vialpondo's.

Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site – it is continually updated and will have all of the information you need!!!

New Trail Leaders will earn 5 points on their 1st trail lead this year

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell: 50/50 raffle will be giving away \$65, unless more tickets are bought after the meeting. We are also raffling off the tool box won at the Winter Quarterly meeting. Tracey discussed the full color patch that was design many years ago. We did get the minimum 25 respondents needed from the poll to be able to meet the minimum order. Logo will be put on gray T-Shirt - \$12 (\$14 for XXL and \$15 for XXXL). It was agreed that we will try to get these shirts pre-paid at the May meeting, so bring your check book or cash if you're interested.

Tracey brought club swag with him for sale. The club's 50% of the 50/50 is still going to NMOHVA.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Vialpondo: Glenn wasn't present. Frank mentioned that Cliff started a site for the Cedro Peak trail ride on Picasa. On the club's website, you can go to the gallery and see pictures of old club runs. You can post pictures to the gallery, too.

WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy: Don added a button to the website "show me the new photo". It will bring up the most recent pics and videos.

EDITOR'S REPORT –Phil Rodacy: Not present. Frank asked that people keep sending articles.

OLD BUSINESS: I have nothing noted in this section, so I guess there was new no business to report on.

NEW BUSINESS:

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT: Become an Officer of the Club. We need new talent according to the President. He ordered Frank to remind everyone that the officer elections are in July and people should consider being an officer.

Much discussion on what meeting was where this summer.

New Members: Daniel Montano

Thanks to Jeff and I for hosting the meeting tonight and bringing goodies and drinks for us. We're just the best aren't we?

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:48pm

50/50 Raffle Winners: \$75 –Daniel Montano
Tool Box – Mike Sells

**NEW TRAIL LEADERS WILL EARN 5 POINTS FOR THEIR
1ST TRAIL LEAD THIS YEAR**



President's Report

By Dixon Patrick

I sure enjoy our Jeep. It all started when I was mountain biking a lot and wanted Zelda to see some of the areas I was able to get to. We rented a Jeep in Moab and like they say the rest is history. It is a hobby and recreation all in one. So in the spirit of getting more people out on the trails, bring a friend, I know a few who went on the buy a 4x4. Lately we have had many visitors, so please do what you can to make them feel welcome and talk to them about the places we go and how the club works.

Many of us attended the Big Foot Ruin, run last month. We know the new Santa Fe Forest map is out and being good stewards of following the law, we stopped for a map at Walatowa Visitors Center. Well they were quick to tell us they are not the Forest Service and had no maps, and the Forest Service office up the road is closed on the weekend. As detailed in the trip report this month, we were able to download an overlay map to keep us legal. The part that really gets me is they can ticket us for being on a closed road, but they are not required to post signs or pole gates. The cost to stay legal is on us.

NMOHVA *is fighting for us with the forest service.* The efforts to limit access to public lands are happening all over the US, but NMOHVA is one of two organizations that are suing to regain our lands. Please get involved in some way. NMOHVA will have events this year; we will post all we can. They will need people to man the booth, get the word out, help in trail maintenance. **Many view our sport as shown on the videos on YouTube**, - you know the ones, - and we need to change that perspective.

VOTE for NM4W Outstanding Member of the year. We vote by secret ballot for the person of his/her choice to be "Outstanding Member ON-Line and at the June picnic. The objective is to recognize a club member that has significantly contributed to the club and/or the 4X4 sport in the past year. The winner will be awarded with a trophy, plaque, or certificate suitable for a place of honor at home.

ELECTION of OFFICERS:

Send ME your "Letter of Intent" an e-mail is fine, and name of a position you would like to hold. You can nominate someone or yourself either by sending me an e-mail, jdpatri@sandia.com, or at the July meeting. If you have any questions, ask a current officer or check out the Club SOP for duties.

We will have the election of officers at the July meeting and the new officers will take the lead in August. All the officer positions are open for election each year. I have served for two terms as Vice President and one as President. My current travel schedule will not allow me to reliably attend the Thursday meetings.

Remember All Positions OPEN



Vice President's Soap Box

By Mark Wolf

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Frank Whiston

Congress Introduces Bill to Help Prevent Road Closures, Ensure Public Participation When Designating National Monuments

Legislation (HR 1459) has been introduced in the U.S. Congress to require the President to complete an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) before designating more than 5,000 acres as a National Monument. The bill would ensure public involvement in the process and discussion of multiple factors including economic impact. Current law provides the President with authority to declare land of "historic or scientific interest" to be a National Monument which can lead to road closures for motorized recreation, among other activities. While this authority has only been used 137 times in 100 years, vast amounts of land have been set aside in the process. SEMA and the SEMA Action Network support a collaborative approach to land-use decisions, including input from local citizens, elected leaders and other stakeholders.

We Urge You to Contact Your U.S. Representatives Today to Urge Their Support for H.R. 1459

- Under the law, the President can designate monuments through Executive Order without input from the local community.
- H.R. 1459 would ensure that local recreation enthusiasts are included in the decision-making process for any National Monument over 5,000 acres. The bill would require an environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Monuments of smaller sizes would not require a NEPA review, but would expire after 3 years if not ratified by Congress.
- H.R. 1459 limits the President to one monument designation per state, per four-year term. Any additional designations would be subject to approval by the U.S. Congress.
- H.R. 1459 ensures a more collaborative public approach to land use decisions and would include a discussion on the positive economic impact of motorized recreation activities, which accounts for over \$257 million in annual economic impact nationwide.

- In 1996, President Clinton set aside 1.9 million acres of land in Southern Utah as the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. President Obama is now under pressure to establish a 1.4 million acres “Greater Canyonlands National Monument,” closing 1,050 of off-road vehicle trails and monitoring another 1,450 miles for future closure.

DON'T DELAY! Click here to contact your member of the U.S. House of Representatives to request support for H.R. 1459. Under Federal Officials, Identify Your Congressional District Representative: <http://echo.bluehornet.com/ct/7307793:2670886691:m:1:102997306:97CE0C7EB40D720ADF9DD9BAF2F2ABFC:r>

For more information, please contact Dan Sadowski at dans@sema.org.



Big Foot Ruin Run

20-APRIL-2013

By Dixon Patrick

Big Foot Ruin is an abandon Indian village in the Jemez Mountains. On Saturday 20 April, 17 vehicles hit the trail on a mildly cool but sunny morning. Because of the Travel Management plan, we can no longer cross the river and the alternate road that starts North of Porter Landing to avoid the river that was in the original plan has been removed. So with no access from the South we had to enter from the Northern end, travel south and then return the same route.

FYI: We were not able to get maps from the Forest Service to determine our location. FYI the Forest service did have available an overlay map that you can down load for a GPS or Google Earth. Thanks to Frank Whiston for this link: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/santafe/landmanagement/projects/?cid=stelprdb5411664> and then click on Travel Aids, then select the map you need, it will download to your computer.

Of the 17 Vehicles, we had 10 members, 5 Guest, 1 applicant (first ride with us) and 1 from Kansas. We would have had one more, but Tracy Bakewell had Jeep issues and had to return home. After airing down, we stopped above the triangle store and looked down on some tent rocks. It is a big view with a big drop off. It is hard to describe in words what we saw, the sun, trees, relatively good roads with the occasional “go around” for real bad sections. A few sections did challenge our driving skill but all made it without incident. While on Virgin Mesa, we stopped for lunch and looked down into Virgin Canyon that is just above the town of Gilman on FR485. The Geology of the area has rock with holes large and small. This is volcanic ash that had air trapped in it when it

turned to rock. Today we can sit in many of the holes for a photo opp.



After lunch we continued to the turn off for the Ruins, but per the management plan the road is closed by law and not a sign. Everyone was in for the 1000 yard hike to the top and view the ruins. After a survey of the area, finding the outline of home sites some with the wood still in them, a Kiva and pottery shards we regrouped and continued. Continuing south we came to the end of the trail, another unmarked line in the sand. We were able to look down on FR485 just south of Porter Landing.



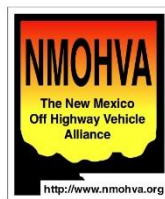
We reversed our tracks for the exit of a long day. At one of our turns we could have been able to go straight on a road (now Closed) to see old log cabins, from the logging days. So this was a great run and I am sure we will do it again but it seems the Forest Service deliberately closed off the access to many of the locations that make the run more interesting. This is where we need to support NMOHVA to get our trails back. This run is only an example of many we have lost.

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Trail Tales



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Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2013
by Lauri Rector



This was the first meeting of the summer at a members home. Cliff and Jeannie Meier were our hosts. The meeting was called to order at 6:18pm by Mark Wolf, who was filling in for Dixon Patrick who is up in Moab (where are his priorities??).

GUESTS: Dan & Kristie Johnson – ‘80 CJ7 & ‘12 Rubicon, Paul & Holly Mariscal - ‘99 TJ, Donnie Walker – Jeep Wrangler, Johnny Walker – missed his ride – sorry!!!, Greg Radtke – ‘13 Rubicon, Jason & Stephanie Nye – oops, missed their ride too!!!, Tom Peters – and that makes 3 rides that I missed.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cody Bakewell, Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Pat & Sue Brady, Jennifer Chapin, Scott & Lori Cridge, Jack Dickey, Leon & Marcia Duggar, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Jennifer Jacobs, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Chris Sears, Mike & Linda Sells, Frank & Beth Whiston, Frank & Donna Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

SECRETARY’S REPORT – Lauri Rector: Jeannie Meier was quick and immediately made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. It passed successfully. Remember, the minutes are posted in the following months Trail Tails and you can read them there.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Jason Lavy: He wasn’t present at the meeting, but, he did email me the evening before the meeting and there is \$1,241.70 in the bank.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Mark Wolf: Mark brought a sheet for people to look at to be sure that they are getting counted for all of their points. Sometimes sign in sheets are forgotten or not accurate. Mark explained the purpose of prospective members earning points; they give everyone a chance to get to know each other some, before money is put out on dues.

Cody Bakewell fined himself for breaking his Jeep at Dirt Fest. Mark Wolf took it even though the treasurer wasn’t even here.

Marcia Duggar paid for Leon Duggar’s fine. He flopped her Cherokee on the pavement. Leon began his story on what happened by explaining why he was even driving Marcia’s Cherokee in the first place. The truck had some kind of issue (other than that it is a Dodge). Leon then started up with some lame excuse about a storm that shut down I-40 (odd, he flipped on Hwy14, hmmmm).

And finally, the poor Cherokee was dragged on its side by the towing company. Leon was cited for unsafe driving (see, even the police were not falling the storm that closed down I-40) and almost for not being able to get insurance card out of glove box. Please take a moment of silence in memory of Marsha's Cherokee before you continue reading. May she rest in peace.

Tracy got pulled over for speeding on his way to Dirt Fest. He didn't see this as being finable since he wasn't at the event yet and he didn't get ticketed (it was a female officer – go figure).

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!!

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston: The NMOHVA lawsuit has had some back and forth on the Administrative Record. Some things were elected to not be included by the Forest Service, so NMOVA has volunteered copies of it and it's now up to the Judge to determine if it will be included. The documents that the Forest Service elected to omit from the Administrative Records were the maps that were published prior to the Travel Management process' beginning. The Gila Forest Travel Management is expected to be out this month. The Draft on Magdalena Ranger District should be out very soon. The BLM process is still ongoing, as is the Palomas Gap and Caballo Lake process. The Las Cruces club is wanting to get training on how to write substantive comments to the Forest Service and BLM. We have several members who are working on getting them help and information on this as well as having discussion on procedures and time lines to follow. The BLM in Socorro wants help in mapping the Gordy's Hill area. They have the GPS equipment for us to use. Even though this has been done, there is due process that has to be followed and at least they are involving us early on. Back to the Santa Fe Forest, Frank has posted a link on the web site to the MVUM on the Forest Web Site. This is the map that shows what is legal and if you're not on a legal road, then you are subject to fines. Some roads just end. If you go further, you could get fined. Frank expects that the 1st year will only be warnings and people will not get fined. If you don't like this map and the lack of trails on it, donate to the NMOHVA.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs: Jeff wasn't present, so we all discussed what we knew about past and upcoming trips.

PAST EVENTS:

April – La Bajada Hill – Jason Lavy – not present: Jennifer Jacobs reported that there were high winds and they went down one way and they gates were locked. It was a short day and was over at 2 pm. Jennifer Chapin said a bunch went out to the Rio Puerco afterwards and played around.

April 20th – Big Foot Run – Dixon Patrick – Dixon wasn't present; Jennifer Jacob reported that the run was fun. Via email, Dixon reported to Mark Wolf that there were 17 vehicles that went on this run.

April 19th & 20th – Spring Quarterly – Alamagordo – Bob Norton and Cliff Meier went with 2 rigs from Cruces. Temperatures were cooler than last year and there was a good turnout. No breaks until Saturday. Bob Norton didn't go around the rock and the tree, just the rock. He decided to drive through the tree.

April 28th – Dirt Fest – combined group of ATV and NM4W – 22 Razors and 14 Jeeps and only 6 veterans. Not a lot of fun to run with the razors, who want to go really fast on flat roads. The Laguna Reservation part of it was an out and back with too many stops and too much dust. But there were some pretty views every once in a while. Some of the NM4W's played around on Snoopy rock and ate what food they had with them. Then Jeff Boggs lead up back out and we got to play along the way. Some of us all went back to the Rector's house to air up before heading home. It turned out to be a very fun day after all.

BE A TRAIL LEADER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 4th – 11th – Moab – Dixon Patrick Contact him if you're interested in these dates.

May 8th – 16th – Moab – Cliff Meier: Trail rides in Moab on the 9th & 11th. Then on May 12th, everyone will travel to the Green River area and then ride trails on the 13th – 15th in the San Rafael area. Mother's Day brunch at the Red Cliff Lodge.

May 12th – TM Lemonade Run – Frank Whiston: This is an exploratory run. Frank has found a trail on the MVUM map that he hasn't been on in a while. Meet at the empty lot next to the Family Dollar in San Ysidro NM (HWY 550 and HWY 4). Details on what to expect and what to bring are posted on the web-site.

May 18th – Go Topless Day – Lauri Rector: Meet at the gas station in San Ysidro. You can go topless or not, your choice. I have bumper stickers for everyone who attends. We will go to an overlook by lunch time and a nice waterfall area in the afternoon, just before the end of the trail.

June 1st – Cedro Peak – Jennifer Chapin: Meet at Smiths on Tramway at 8:30am. There will be a raffle. Check the website for more details and last minute updates for weather information. This is a fund raiser for Susan G. Kohman. The website has instructions for donating if you are so inclined.

June 8th – The June Meeting is at the Oak Flat Picnic area. You can arrive any time after 4pm. Meeting to start right after the 5 pm meal is done. Bring a side dish or desert. The club will provide a barbeque or Subway sandwiches, depending on fire restrictions.

June 23rd – Big Foot Print - in the making – look for details to come

July 13th – July Meeting at the Provance Home: Pot Luck to start at 5:00pm. Directions are on the web site.

July 26th – 28th - Summer Quarterly – Southern Missouri Off Road Ranch – info is on the web site.

July 20th – Casa Jeep Jam – Coors – Date is set, detail to follow. Check the web site for updates and a link to a blurb about last year's event.

August 10th – August Meeting at the Boggs home in Rio Rancho

August 31st – September 2nd - Labor Day Campout in Moab – Red Rock 4-Wheelers – Registration info to be published around the 1st of June

September meeting at Vialpondo's: Way out in Rio Rancho.

Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site — it is continually updated and added to and will have all of the contact information you need!!!

New Trail Leaders will earn 5 points on their 1st trail lead this year

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell: \$63 for the 50/50 raffle ticket. \$63 will go to NMOHVA. Also a set of Mechanics gloves will be raffled off. No mechanic will be included. He has club paraphernalia for sale. Tracy wants to discuss the 5 color logo shirts and Mark Wolf modeled his much to Cody Bakewell's displeasure. This shirt is pre-order and pre-pay. The club just doesn't have the funds to pre-pay. So you've got to get with Tracy and getting him money ASAP or you'll miss out.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Vialpondo: Not present

WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy: Not present

EDITOR'S REPORT –Phil Rodacy: Not present.

OLD BUSINESS: We need club support for officer positions. Open positions are President, Vice President and Secretary (maybe more). If you can fill a position, please let Dixon Patrick know as soon as possible.

Submit your vote for New Mexico 4-wheeler of the year.

Dues are due July 1st. Bring a check next month. Or access Pay Pal from the web-site (but don't ask me how, 'cuz I couldn't find it while I was typing this part of the minutes). Pay your dues on time – we may not want to vote you in a 2nd time.

NEW BUSINESS: Paul & Holly Mariscal and Greg Radtke voted in as new members.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:07 pm

Raffle Winners: Pat Brady on the 50/50 (not sure if it was still \$63)

Leon Duggar won the Mechanics gloves – get working on Marcia's Cherokee!

**NEW TRAIL LEADERS WILL EARN 5 POINTS FOR THEIR
1ST TRAIL LEAD THIS YEAR**



President's Report

By Dixon Patrick

Well summer is definitely here. We have had some great runs to the Jemez, Moab and Cedro Peak. Being active is what keeps us going strong. If you have not heard, NMOHVA is making headway on the lawsuit. Joanne Spivack was on KKOB, talk radio twice! I would say the public is starting to realize the magnitude of the closures. Please pay attention to what is going on in the SFNF, this is just one location but the other Forest is paying attention to the level of public interest.

We've got some voting to do soon. Be sure to vote on line for the member of the year. They are someone that puts in the extra effort to keep the club going strong. We also have our elected officers. I have not filled several positions and I really do not want to be asking for support on the day of elections. We will vote in July and announce at the end of the meeting. The new officers will start in August.

The MOAB trip reminded me of why I like "camping". If you stay at a hotel it has the highest level of comfort but most people treat you like a stranger. At any camp and RV location, it is one big family. Combine that with a bunch of Jeeps and it is a reunion. We do not have an RV, and usually rent a cabin to stay in. It is becoming more popular for RV locations to have cabins. You need to check the amenities as they vary to both extremes.

See you at the Picnic!



Vice President's Soap Box

By Mark Wolf

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Frank Whiston

Thankfully, up to the time of writing this, we have not experienced the tragic reminders that we had last year at this time that it is fire season. Our state is still extremely dry and land agencies have imposed fire restrictions even earlier this year. I want to remind everyone to be aware of the conditions and be sure that we don't park in any grass that could be high enough to come in contact with a hot exhaust or other chassis component. Please read my article on the trip that I lead recently and don't let the closures keep you from visiting the forest.

Additionally, I will not be seeking re-election as DEA next month. Instead, I would like to try an officer position that I have not had previously. If I don't change things up, I am going to get burned out. I will be running for Historian next go-around. Please consider serving as DEA. I'll still be around and willing to help anyone who is interested.



Worldwide Go-Topless Day Run

La Ventana

18-May-2013

By Lauri Rector

This is a day that Everything Jeep is trying to get established. Frank Whiston is the one who set up the event on the calendar and asked for a volunteer to lead a trail ride. I have wanted to do the La Ventana trail again for quite a while. The club ran it several years in a row when we first moved to New Mexico in 2002. But, no one has lead that trail in about 5, maybe 6 years. I thought it was time that we did it again.

We had 11 Jeeps, including mine. Jennifer Jacobs in her '95 YJ, Jason Lavy in his '08 JK Unlimited, Gary Hirokawa in his TJ, Robert Gill and Karen Morant in a TJ, I think, Dan & Kristie Johnson in a '13 JK Unlimited, Paul & Holly Mariscal in their TJ, Mike Olsen and Debby Parks in a YJ, Bonnie Kilgore and her friend Leonard in her '13 JK Unlimited, Scott & Lorii Cridge in his '13 JK, Donnie Walker in his TJ.

Despite the cooler weather that morning and the distance of the meeting point, everyone, except for Jeff and I, had some part of their top off and showed great spirit for the day.

Once we felt like everyone had shown up and everyone that needed to, had a chance to do a 10-100, everyone got bundled back up and we all headed out for the 26 mile drive to the trail head. The gate was still closed, but Jeff figured out it was not locked. Signage said that the gate was closed until May 14th, so I think we were good.

The trail is being used, and a little more difficult that I remembered. We did stop a few times up to the look-out to let everyone get caught up, but no one had any problems. The views all along the

trails were more spectacular than what I remembered. The CB stayed quiet as everyone was busy taking in the beautiful scenery.

Jeff and I managed to navigate to the lookout point without having to do any back-tracking. This was amazing, because there was very little on the trail that we recognized. Especially the turn-off to the look-out!! But we did make it to where we park to make the hike over to the look-out. There is no clear path over to it. A game of Marco Polo began as some of got to the look-out and heard others trying to make their way. But, this kept us all together. In years pass, we would all be spread out along the cliff edge. The view was just awesome!!!

After lunch, Paul Mariscal was nice enough to try to tune my CB antennae, because I could not hear my tail gunner. This is when we discovered I had the squelch turned all the way down. Ooops!!! We made our way back out to the trail and continued on. With still more views!! Then the trails starts heading down the mesa. This part of the trail is in the trees, with some nice switch backs that gave this rather easy trail some challenge. The trail then stays in a valley with some meadows and follows a ravine, it then turns and goes through the ravine. We then took the off shoot to the water fall. Even though we all knew that there would not be any water, we made the hike back to the falls. This is such a pretty area, especially when there is water. I think everyone enjoyed walking back there and seeing it anyway.

We then went on back out to the trail and continued on until the end. Luckily there were no locked gates and we were able to make the loop. The cows did not appreciate us, but none of them charged us. The little calves were adorable.

I passed out Worldwide Go-Topless bumper stickers to everyone and had a little drawing for the 10% off coupon for Everything Jeeps. Robert Gill was the big winner!!!

Great trail!!! We need to do this again before the snow flies this fall.



Travel Management Lemonade A Trip to Eureka Mesa By Frank Whiston

Travel Management Lemonade, A Trip to Eureka Mesa

Citizen's Alternative to Develop, Provide, and
Maintain Quality 4WD Recreational
Opportunities
on the
Santa Fe National Forest

Prepared by:
The New Mexico 4 Wheelers
October 24, 2007



Final version submitted on 10/24/07
Please send comments to: environmental-affairs@nm4w.org
Rev 4 - 10/24/07

When the SFNF released the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Travel Management last fall, we were disappointed with the magnitude of road and trail closures on the forest. Then the Motor Vehicle Usage Map (MVUM) came out this spring, leaving off even more of the routes that the club has enjoyed for decades. What makes this even more frustrating is the fact that NM4W has been there during the entire SFNF Travel Management process, providing input as outlined by the law, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NM4W's Mark Werkmeister even went so far as to submit a Citizens' Alternative document which included maps and descriptions of the club's favorite routes and camping areas, why we do what we do, and the economic

impact we have on the local communities. He essentially spoon fed the information to the forest service that was needed for their EIS, but none of it was used. The SFNF aligned with groups such as the Center for Biological Diversity and Wild Earth Guardians instead, writing the EIS to meet their agenda.



About a year and a half ago, Mark Werkmeister forwarded a video to me of some UTVs at a mine that was said to be in the Jemez Mountains asking if I knew where this was. I viewed the video, recognizing some of the surrounding landscape. Then I took to Google Earth on the computer and pinpointed the location to be just north of the



Deer Lake community, along the Eureka Mesa. This spot looked really neat, but it was too late in the season to go and check it out. We have a big lemon here, so I decided to make some lemonade after studying the routes that we are allowed on, which are displayed on the MVUM. The roads leading to this mine were on the MVUM, so a trip to check it out was in order. Even though NMOHVA has filed a lawsuit to reverse the travel management decision, as law abiding citizens, we must abide by these severe access restrictions.



Eight Jeeps and two Early Broncos gathered in San Ysidro on Mother's Day 2013 to experience what would be a nearly perfect day in the mountains. After about 30 minutes of driving north on



Highway 550, the group turned toward the mountains via County Road 11/Old Highway 44. Once in the forest, we traveled on FR 20 and 533 to work our way north to NM Highway 126. Recent rains calmed the dust to a point such that it was almost non-existent. The next turn was on FR 70, toward San Gregorio Reservoir. Just short of the trailhead to the lake, we turned west, traversing a somewhat technical descent off the top of Eureka Mesa. We arrived at the abandoned Eureka Copper Mine just in time for lunch.

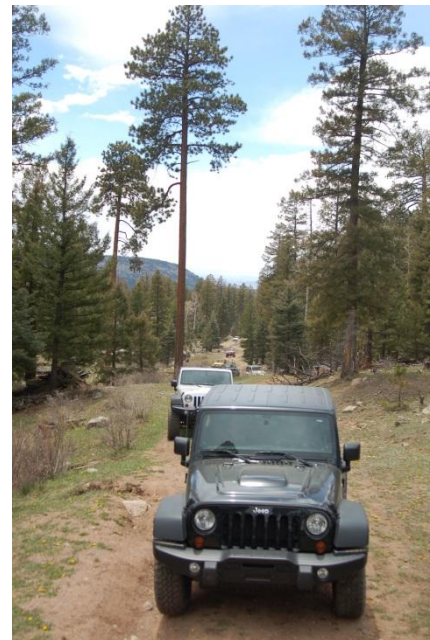
Natives of the area say that copper was first mined and smelted by the Conquistadores, who used Indian slaves to extract ore and coal locally. The arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad revolutionized the mining industry in New Mexico. Now base-metal ores and coal could be carried cheaply to smelters and other markets, and low-grade precious metal deposits could be worked at a profit.

The Eureka Mine was a part of the Nacimientito mining district. Between 1881 and 1960 the district produced

about 7,500,000 pounds of copper and several tens of thousands of ounces of silver, valued at over \$1,100,000. Hand-sorted high-grade ore was hauled by wagon to a 30-ton smelter at Copper City (now known as the Deer Lake community), and matte was hauled by wagon 60 miles to the railroad at Bernalillo. However, like most mining enterprises during this period, Eureka was able to operate only in times of high metal prices. Not a single metal mine in the area was able to operate continuously for the 10 to 15 years ordinarily considered the minimum period for a profitable undertaking. Since 1900 there have been two short-lived attempts to revive the district, the first from 1916 to 1920, the second from 1955 to 1957. The dollar value of production in 1956, \$231,831, was probably the highest in the history of the district. Most of it can be credited to the Eureka mine in Rio Arriba County. Analyses of mineralized fossil wood from the Eureka, Nacimientito, and San Miguel mines show that copper ranges from 38.9% to 65.8% and silver ranges from 5.6 to 6.8 ounces per ton. Mineralized fossil wood constitutes a small percentage of total rock volume at these localities; however, it contributes significantly to the average grade of ore in these deposits. Samples of rocks show a maximum of 4.7% copper and 0.088 ounce of silver per ton. The Eureka Mine could probably yield several tens of thousands of tons of lowgrade ore today. The high cost of transportation remains a severe handicap.



After some lunch, checking out the mine tunnels, and enjoying the view of Cabezon to the west; the group backtracked to FR 70 and continued on to the east. With an appetite for rougher terrain, we chose to travel FR 329 which comes within less than 1 tenth of a mile from the border of the San Pedro Parks Wilderness. Surprisingly, the open meadows were lush and green with small patches of snow remaining in the spots in the trees most protected from sun. I sure am glad that I had the MVUM loaded onto my GPS along this road as there are several other roads leading off of this one that are now illegal to travel. FR329 eventually joined back up with FR 70, on which we continued on until reaching FR 103. At this point, the rest of the way back would be rather smooth and/or gravel, so those who had aired down filled their tires back up. We still did not experience any significant dust until on Highway 126 toward Fenton Lake.



the
off

I must say that there is nothing like a trip such as this one to remind ourselves of why we continue to fight for maintaining motorized access in this forest. [NMOHVA](#) is the only group fighting this decision and they need your support. Ask yourself how much your experiences in the Jemez are worth and donate to the Access Defense fund.

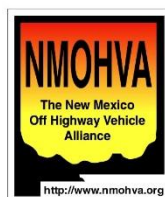
So, even though the SFNF has taken away many of the routes that have been historical favorites for our club, I highly recommend that you use the [Travel Management—Travel Aids](#) posted on the SFNF website as a tool to find something that you have never seen before, or to go visit a place that you may not have been to in a long time. Go out and make some Lemonade!

NM4W Officers

President Dixon Patrick 271-9133 pr@nm4w.org	Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 vp@nm4w.org	Secretary Lauri Rector 891-8517 se@nm4w.org
Treasurer Jason Lavy 710-4928 tr@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 pc@nm4w.org	Historian Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 hi@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Frank Whiston 292-1541 de@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net

Web Site Administrator wa@nm4w.org

Newsletter editor ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



July 1, 2013

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

June 8, 2013

by Lauri Rector



June is when we have the NM4W Annual Club Picnic at Oak Flats Open Area.

The meeting was called to order at 5:57pm by Dixon Patrick

GUESTS: Ken Walker (he has a motorcycle) is a friend of Carol Bevel, Henry (Hal) & Peg Kugelman - '06 Wrangler, Troy and Lari Hobough and kids - '10 JK Unlimited, Gary Hirokawa – TJ, Tom Peters - ???, Dwight Smith – TJ

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Carol Bevel, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul Caskey & Mary Turpin, Jennifer Chapin, Craig Courtright & Vicki Medlin, Jack & Cathy Dickey, Leon Duggar, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Paul & Holly Mariscal, Mark Mullin, Bob Norton, Dan Pritchard, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy & Janie Shows, Steve Roy, Chris Sears, Glenn & Rebagayle Vialpando, Mark & Joan Wolf

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector: Jason Lavy made motion to dispense of the reading of minutes. It was immediately seconded and unanimously approved. You can always peruse them online in the July issue of the Trail Tails.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy: Balance is \$1,301.77. Jason is ready to take cash or checks tonight if you want to pay your dues now and get it done. Pay Pal should be up soon on the home page. Dues are \$35 for members and \$17.50 for Associate Members.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mark Wolf: Explained the point system to the guests and how they can earn the 5 points to be eligible to be voted in for membership. It gives them a chance to get to know us and for us to get to know them. Mark brought the tally board with him so that you can be sure that your points are accurate. There are now 3 different ways to earn a \$100 certificate.

Now on to fines. Even though Jennifer Chapin did an awesome job on the run, Mark Wolf did go ahead and fine her for having to get jumped when we left the meeting place for the Susan G. Komen support run.

Mark then explained fines for the benefit of the guests. They are for fun and only a quarter. It gives us chance to smack members when they are down (sometimes we do it to the guests too).

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!!

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston: Frank was not present. Dixon explained that the Director of Environmental Affairs keeps up with the legislature, laws, NMOHVA, and all things important to land that have trails we can ride on.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs: Jeff wasn't present, so we all discussed what we knew.

PAST EVENTS: May 4th – 11th – Moab – Dixon Patrick: Had lots of fun and everyone needs to go up there sometime. Easy, Hard and OM Gosh I'm doing this trail.

May 8th – 16th – Moab – Cliff Meier: I don't recall that anything was said on this trip. I would assume that it would be the same as the overlapping Moab run above.

May 12th – TM Lemonade Run – Frank Whiston: I don't think anything was said about this one either. By the way, we did meet up with the group at the beginning of the day and they all looked like they were having fun.

May 18th – Go Topless Day – Lauri Rector: I spoke briefly about this ride. It was very uneventful with a lot of beautiful views. No locked gates. I wrote an article on it and it should be in the June Trail Tails.

June 1st – Cedro Peak – Jennifer Chapin: 9 vehicles signed up on the web site and 27 showed up. \$234 in cash was collected in the donation jar that Jennifer had with her. The on-line donations and what the sponsors donated was about \$700 – 800. Raffle prizes were given before the run and during lunch and included: Coffee, toy Jeep, water bottles, and a bottle of vodka. She served coffee from her new H2 before the run – awesome, a coffee bar in an H2. Mark Wolf stated that she had 15 visitors show up, which is amazing. (Some were in attendance at this meeting).

BE A TRAIL LEADER

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 23rd – Big Foot Print - in the making – look for details to come

July 13th – July Meeting at the Provance Home: Pot Luck to start at 5:00pm.

Directions are on the web site.

July 26th – 28th - Summer Quarterly – Southern Missouri Off-Road Ranch – Jennifer Chapin
will be attending

July 27th – Casa Jeep Jam – Coors – Date set, detail to follow. Check web site for updates and a link to a blurb about last year's event.

July 28th – August 4th – 27th All 4 Fun – Paul Caskey will be attending.

August 10th – August Meeting at the Boggs home in area BFE of Rio Rancho Pot Luck to start at 5:00pm. Directions are to be posted on web site.

August 31st – September 2nd - Labor Day Campout in Moab – Red Rock 4-Wheelers:
Registration info to be published around the 1st of June. This will be the next opportunity to get up there.

September meeting at Vialpondo's - Way out in Rio Rancho Pot Luck to start at 5:00pm.
Directions are to be posted on the web site.

*please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site — it is continually updated
and added to and will have all of the contact information you need!!!*

*New Trail Leaders will earn 5 points on their
1st trail lead this year*

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell: Tracy explained what he does; he sells T-shirts, hats, and club stuff and raffle tickets. The 50/50 raffle has \$76 so far for tonight. And he has license plates tonight because Paul Caskey found about 400 in his garage.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Vialpondo: Nothing new, just asked that people keep uploading their pictures from the runs. A guest said that there were great pictures on the web-site.

WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy: No changes for the public. He will turn on pay pal when he gets home. (side note that it is on there now and is really easy!!!)

EDITOR'S REPORT –Phil Rodacy: I have no notes here. I don't think anything was reported?

OLD BUSINESS: Next month is officer election – we need a new secretary, president, vice president, treasury, DOE, program chairman, trip chairman.

Next month we will have the results for the New Mexico 4-Wheeler of the year. Vote here at this meeting or submit your vote on-line.

NEW BUSINESS: \$35 due are due for members \$17.50 for associates - \$1 for paying through pay pal. Gary Hirokawa and Dwight Smith were voted in as members – Gary will be an associate because he lives over 50 miles from the Big I. Leon made a motion and Jason Lavy 2nd it and all were in agreement for voting them both in as members.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 6:26 pm

Raffle Winners: Yes, there was a winner and there were a couple of other prizes that were won. Unfortunately, I was enjoying chatting with Zelda Patrick and catching up with her. I have no idea who won and exactly what they won. I hope this has not caused worlds to collide!!!!

**NEW TRAIL LEADERS WILL EARN 5 POINTS FOR THEIR
1ST TRAIL LEAD THIS YEAR**



President's Report

By Dixon Patrick

There is no President's report this month.



Vice President's Soap Box

By Mark Wolf

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

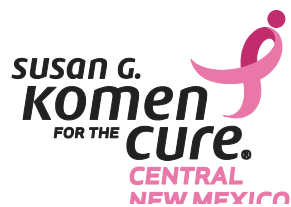
By Frank Whiston

There is no DEA report this month.



2013 New Mexico 4-Wheelers Ride for the Cure

By Jennifer Chapin



2013 New Mexico 4wheelers Ride for the Cure.

This was the first year for this event hosted by the New Mexico 4Wheelers. In a continued challenging environment for businesses in the United States we were still able to obtain sponsors who donated items for the raffle and placed ads in the Trail Guide. The main goal for the event was to raise awareness about breast cancer along with some much needed funds to assist Susan G. Komen for the Cure Central New Mexico. The other goal was to provide a fun family event for all 4 Wheelers in New Mexico.

June 1st 2013 our group met at the Smith's grocery store on Tramway and I40 in Albuquerque, NM. There was coffee and water for everyone and raffle tickets for sale along with a donation jar. There were twenty-seven trucks in all - mostly Jeeps, 25 of them, but 1 Suzuki and 1 Hummer as well. We had some very large **Pink Ribbon** magnets for some of the trucks. Most people brought family, friends and dogs along for the ride. Each person received a Trail Guide which included information about the Cedro Peak area that we would be driving through. In addition there was information about breast cancer prevention and advertisements from our sponsors.

When we left the Smith's for our trail we caravanned out old Route 66 towards Tijeras, NM and continued a couple of miles where we turned off the highway and started heading up the mountain road. It was a couple of miles of paved road and then dirt roads. Not a real challenge for most 4x4's but nice scenery to go with the beautiful weather. Sunny and about 80 degrees. We stopped on the dirt road for some to air down and continued up the trail. We then went to a lookout area for lunch. Since we had so many trucks most everyone walked up to the lookout to sit down for lunch. After lunch we had the raffle. There were quite a few items - coffee, water bottles, gift cards for Starbucks and Best Buy. Our most desired item was the Jeep we were raffling off. Not a full size Jeep but a 1/18 Scale model Jeep with New Mexico 4Wheelers logos and the breast cancer logos on it.



After all the prizes were collected we headed down the trail to a place with some stairs for people who wanted a little challenge for the 4x4's. The stairs went from easy to difficult. With a high lifted Jeep someone had a broken U-joint in the back of course many others with tools and onboard air were there to assist. Most people were just enjoying watching others climb the stairs. The small Suzuki even made it most of the way before getting a winch for the last two steps. This was the end of our trail ride again since we had so many trucks we were blocking the road and the forest service rangers needed to get through. Everyone said good bye and headed home.

The best part of the event is that together we were able to raise over **\$700** for Susan G. Komen Central New Mexico. These events are not possible without great sponsors and supporters. Please check out the Trail Guide and support the businesses that supported the 2013 New Mexico 4Wheelers Ride for the Cure.

2013 New Mexico 4Wheeler Ride for the Cure

For more information about the event or to become a sponsor for 2014 please contact:

Jennifer Chapin

New Mexico 4Wheeler

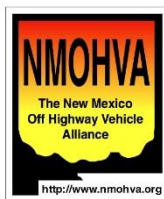
jennifer@jdcnyc.net

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Web Site Administrator wa@nm4w.org

Newsletter editor ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



August 1, 2013

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2013

by Joan Wolf



The July meeting was held at the Provance home.

Meeting was called to order at 6:15 pm by Dixon Patrick.

GUESTS: Donnie Walker – 2000 Jeep Wrangler

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Cody Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Richard Brooks, Jennifer Chapin, Leon Duggar, Jennifer Jacobs, Keith & Linda Jurey, Jason Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Bob & Carol Provance, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf filling in for Lauri Rector: It was motioned and approved to dispense with reading of the June minutes. The minutes are available online in each month's Trail Tales.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy: Balance is \$1,337.19. Jason said that approximately half of the members have used PayPal to pay annual dues.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs:

PAST EVENTS:

None. NOTE: Due to fire danger, most of the forests were closed in June.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 26th – 28th - Summer Quarterly – Southern Missouri Off-Road Ranch

July 27^h – Cerro Pelado/San Juan Mesa – Jemez Mountains. Trip Leader, Jeff Boggs.

July 28th – Casa Jeep Jam (on Coors) – Opportunity for new Jeep owners to learn about NM4W and NMOHVA. Show 'N Shine, Prizes.

July 28th – August 4th All 4 Fun – Leadville, CO is this year's site.

August 3rd – 4th – Pre-run Mt. Blanca – Keith Jurey: Possibly run Medano Pass trail if it's open. This trip is limited to 3 vehicles due to the need to cover a lot of territory in a short time. See details below on the Labor Day Weekend Mt. Blanca trip.

August 4th – Lauri Rector – San Miguel Mountain in the Jemez Mountains, off Hwy 550 south of Cuba. Meet at 9:00 next to the Family Dollar in San Ysidro. Details on the website.

August 10th – August Meeting at the Boggs home (near the Home Depot on Hwy 550 in Rio Rancho). Directions are to be posted on website. Potluck starts at 5:00 pm. As always, bring your own chairs.

August 30th – September 2nd – Labor Day to Mt. Blanca – Keith Jurey: Limited to 10 vehicles due to the trail difficulty. Need lockers front/rear and minimum 33" tires. More details on website.

August 31st – September 2nd – Red Rock 4-Wheelers Labor Day Event: Must register to attend.

September 14th – Sept. Meeting at Frank & Beth Whiston's. Potluck to start at 5:00 pm. Directions are to be posted on the web site.

October 4th – 6th – Thrill on the Hill Jeep Rally, Cloudcroft, NM. Sponsored by Desert Sun Jeep dealer. Frank Whiston ran across this event.

TBD – Big Footprint run in the Jemez – Frank G. Whiston will lead this pending more rain.

BE A TRAIL LEADER—IT'S FUN AND FREE

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mark Wolf: Wolfie explained the points system and encouraged everyone to check the points sheet printout to verify correctness. No fines this month.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston: Frank reported that many forests recently reopened due to the rain. Some burn areas in the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) remain closed.

Santa Fe National Forest Lawsuit Update: Initial argument has been made by NMOHVA (which NM4W supports) to the Court. Next, the Forest Service makes their argument. Then NMOHVA counter argues. The Judge has denied Intervener status to the environmentalist's side. Although this is a rather minor decision, the other side is appealing and using up funds to do so. Without an Intervener, the Judge has to make a decision. Frank noted that rumor has it the Gila National Forest's lawyers are reassessing their Travel Management Plan before releasing it. They've taken note of the SFNF lawsuit. It's a continual battle but Frank is hopeful that our voice is being heard. The lawsuit is costly and NMOHVA can always use more capital. At today's meeting, Mark Wolf donated \$250 and challenged other NM4Wers to make a donation—every \$10 helps.

Dixon noted that the SFNF road maps are appalling. He doesn't think the general public is aware of the camping restrictions. Roads physically still exist but there are no Road Closed signs and people may get fined. Things could get ugly.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell: Tracy offered up t-shirts, hats, license plates, and raffle tickets.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Vialpando: Not present.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the webmaster) – Don Roy: Sorry, I didn't write anything down so going from memory. Don may have reported that there's a new server and it will be transparent to members (obviously transparent to me).

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy: Not present.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dues are due July 31 (\$35 Members; \$17 Associate Members). If not paid, must start over and gain 5 points for eligibility.
- **Awards.** Jennifer Chapin was announced as NM4W 4-Wheeler of the Year. Congratulations! Since the club's fiscal year ends July 31, the Points' Winners (Most Participation, Most Trails Led, and Special Raffle) will be announced at the August meeting.
- New Officers
 - President: Cliff Meier
 - Vice President: Leon Duggar
 - Secretary: Joan Wolf
 - Treasurer: Dixon Patrick
 - Trip Chairperson: Jeff Boggs
 - Program Chairperson: Jennifer Chapin
 - Environmental Director: OPEN
 - Historian: Frank G. Whiston
- Non-elected Positions:
 - Newsletter Editor: Phil Rodacy
 - Web Administrator: Don Roy

Thanks to Bob and Carol Provance for hosting the meeting and providing a wonderful shade tree.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 6:42 pm

Raffle Winners: Mark Wolf won \$27 in the 50/50 raffle and Cheryle Bakewell won a Cam can (a 1-gal. gasoline can).

please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site — it is continually updated and added to and will have all of the contact information you need!!!



President's Report

By Dixon Patrick

Well, this is the last time you will hear from me as President for a while. As many of you know my work schedule prevents me from making the winter meetings at the church, so I must pass on the gavel. I have had a great year and thank you, and look forward to you supporting Cliff this year. We are lucky to have him, but I want to remind everyone that new leadership in every area of the club is needed to keep things going. So pay attention to what your officers are doing. They would love to share details for the position they hold.

This year our club was hit hard by the road closures. Many of our favorite day runs were closed or modified to a point that we did not enjoy them as much. We need to continue to run trails, and have events. This may take more effort by some of us to get out on runs that are farther away, or involve overnight stays but we need to do it. NMOHVA is doing a great job of legally challenging the Forest Service. We cannot allow what they have done to go unchallenged. What happens in Santa Fe Forest will set the tone for other Forest to follow.

Our club will host the Quarterly this year. Where and when you might ask? Well, you could be a big part of that decision. I would guess that just after New Year's Day we will be putting a plan together and will ask for your support. It takes a lot to get a quarterly together, and when it runs without problems, it just shows how the great planning months in advance has paid off. We need new people to participate; you can help with small tasks this year and learn from the experience. In the years to come, you could be more involved with the event.



Vice President's Soap Box

By Mark Wolf

Well folks another year has ended and I am no longer the VP as of August 1st. I wanted to do the Presidency thing, but with work away from Albuquerque a lot, I just couldn't give the position the attention it deserved. So, maybe another time. Thanks for your support while I struggled through the position's responsibilities.

One thing I learned is that Don has a done lot of work on the website to keep track of the points for our award system. Remember - awards are utilized for MOTIVATION!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Now if we can just get people interested (i.e....MOTIVATED) to lead trails and get involved in some way the system would be working very well. One of our current and longtime Members wrote that into the SOPs as a way of motivating people to lead trails and mostly to become involved in the Club functions. New members need to get involved soon as the older ones are going to fade away and no one will know how to lead or run things. I became VP the first year I was a member, because I was interested in the club. There are a lot of great people in this club and I am proud to be a member. Please stand up and do your part. It will be appreciated by all! Don't let this fantastic club fade away due to apathy.

With Don's work on the website and the point system, I was unsure it was properly tracking things and therefore I started my own spreadsheet system. And you know what? It's not!! You know why?! Because people failed to take the responsibility of tracking things for themselves. You can't

get a point if you fail to sign the attendance list at the meetings/events/runs. Not everyone can remember who was or was not at an event. You owe it to yourself to make sure you take care of this little detail or someone else will win your \$100 award! I don't know about you, but \$100 is nothing to sneeze at! It could buy gas for the next run at least! It is looking like the winner of the "Person who led the most trails" will go to a winner who led 4 trails all year!!! Only 4 trails?!!! Leading 10 would make the award have much more meaning, wouldn't you think? Come on people, the old line of "I don't know where to go" is an old one and no excuse. We can all read maps and like to go exploring. Go on a run with a buddy and find something. We also have a spreadsheet of trails with GPS coordinates and I can share that with anyone willing to read it and go play. Leading a trail means "never eating dust"!!!!!! Don't be afraid!! Go for it!!!



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Frank Whiston

There is no DEA report this month.

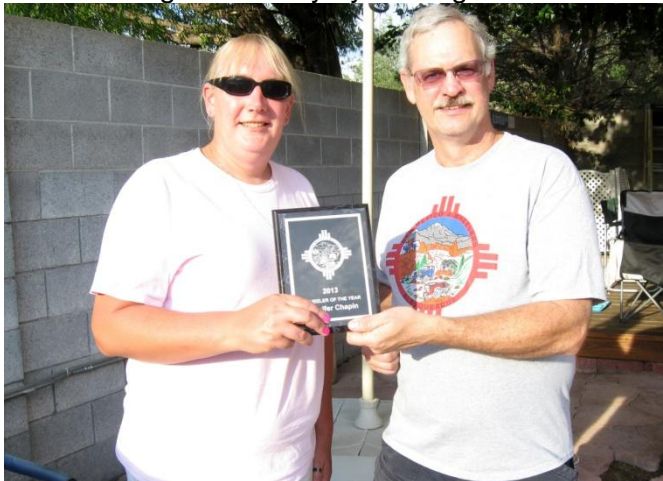


Jennifer Chapin

New Mexico 4-Wheeler of the Year

By Joan Wolf

Jennifer Chapin was voted 2013 NM4W 4-Wheeler of the Year by her fellow club members. Although just a one-year club member, Jennifer has attended many runs and led several. Her exceptional event was the New Mexico 4 Wheelers for the Cure Trail Ride. Jennifer led 27 vehicles on a run to Cedro Peak, raffled off great prizes, provided a coffee bar in the back of her Hummer, and, most importantly, raised over \$750 in charitable funds. Jennifer also helps out in the larger four-wheeling community by serving as Web Master for the Southwest 4 Wheel Drive Association.



In March 2012 Jennifer moved here from the Baltimore/Washington DC area. Three days after the move she went on the Riley Ghost Town ride! Jennifer appreciates the unique New Mexico scenery and challenging four-wheeling. Congratulations, Jennifer, and thanks for your instant participation and leadership. You're a great role model for other new members.

Past 4-Wheelers of the Year

2012 Jeff Boggs
2011 Dixon Patrick
2010 Jeanne Meier
2009 Cliff Meier
2008 Frank G. Whiston
2007 Mark Werkmeister
2006 Glenn Bontly
2005 Lauri and Jeff Rector
2004 Chuck Peeples
2003 Leon Duggar
2002 Glenn Bontly
2001 Pat Brady
2000 Mark Wolf
1999 Mark Wolf
1998 Bob Telepak
1997 Charlie Wilson
1996 Mark Werkmeister



Cerro / Pelado Ride

7/27/2013

By Jeff Boggs

Eight 4x4's met at Walatowa Gas Station at 8:30 am for a ride up to the top of Cerro Pelado Fire Lookout station, in the Jemez Mountains. We had Scoot Cridge, 2013 Jeep Wrangler, Jennifer Jacobs, 1995 YJ, Jennifer Chapin, 2008 H3, Gregg Radtke, 2013 JK Unlimited, Dwight Smith and family, 2009 JK Unlimited, Paul Mariscal, TJ, Matthew Wheeler, a guest, in a Nissan Xterra, from White Rock, NM, and Jeff and Paula Boggs, trail leader for the day.

It was sunny and cool at 9:00 am when we left, but it had rained hard last night. We went up through Ponderosa, NM, past the winery, and when we got to the end of the pavement, people were next to the side of the road, saying the road was bad. Just what we were hoping, Ha!! Well, the little lake right at that spot was full of water, and the first mud puddle had a trailer and a car parked off the side of the road, covered in mud. We went right through. Several turns later, at another muddy area, a truck was parked in the road, nobody there, so we had to go around, through the deeper mud, no problem. Paliza campground is closed this summer due to federal budget cuts.



We turned east up FR 266, up to FR 266NA, then over to FR 271. We then turned up FR 270B



and had to clear several fallen trees off this road. Down to FR 270 and up to the fire lookout station. The guy working the tower invited us up to look around. He explained some of his equipment and discussed some of the recent fires. The two dogs, Durango and Bessel checked out the place. After lunch up there, we headed down to FR 10 and over to FR 269. Saw some unexcavated Indian ruins along the cliff above San Juan Canyon. Looping around FR 136, we came back to FR 10. We checked out FR 135A, marked with a FR 135D sign. Hope the Forest Service gets out there with signs that match their new MVUM. Back to Walatowa and then headed home. A great day in the mountains.



Casa 4th Annual Jeep Jam

7/28/2013
By Jeff Boggs



Numerous jeeps and 4x4's descended on Mark's Casa Jeep dealership for their annual Jeep celebration. Many NM4W members showed up. NMOHVA and the NM4Wheelers set up a booth.

Casa Jeep had burgers, hot dogs, and drinks, and gave away numerous prizes. There were 40 plus 4x4's. Mark Stevens, Desert Rat Off Road Center, took a trophy. Lots of spectators, and everybody seemed to have a good time soaking up the history of the Jeep. The dealership promised to make next year's event even bigger. Thanks to everyone who attended. We passed out info about the club and NMOHVA. The weather was nice. Check out more pictures on web site.

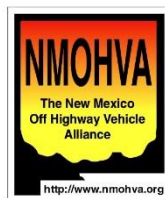


NM4W Officers

President Cliff Meier 281-3704 pr@nm4w.org	Vice-President Leon Duggar 235-8988 vp@nm4w.org	Secretary Joan Wolf 856-8539 se@nm4w.org
Treasurer Dixon Patrick 271-9133 tr@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Jennifer Chapin 305-333-3375 pc@nm4w.org	Historian Frank G. Whiston 280-7922 hi@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Position Open de@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, wa@nm4w.org

Newsletter editor, Phil Rodacy, ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



September 1, 2013

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2013

by Joan Wolf



The August meeting was held at the home of Jeff and Paula Boggs.

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Vice President Leon Duggar.

GUESTS: Donnie Walker

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff & Paula Boggs, Jennifer Chapin, Mike Coe (an Associate Member), Craig Courtright & Vicki Medlin, Scott & Lori Cridge, Leon Duggar, Jennifer Jacobs, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Paul & Holly Mariscal, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Don Roy, Frank G. Whiston, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Tahoe Zahn.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf: It was motioned by Dixon Patrick, seconded by Jeff Boggs, and approved to dispense with reading of the July minutes. The minutes are available online in each month's Trail Tales.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick: Balance is \$2,728.82.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs:

PAST EVENTS:

July 20 Rio Puerco – Jeff Boggs: Seven vehicles. There were some challenges on the trail; people enjoyed the outing.

July 27 – Cerro Pelado/San Juan Mesa – Jemez Mountains. There were eight vehicles, beautiful views, and a tour of the fire lookout. Jeff Boggs noted that the FR number on the new trail user's maps and the forest road signs match but the offshoots numbered A, B, C, etc. don't match.

July 28 – Casa Jeep Jam (on Coors) – This was a good venue for telling the public about NM4W and NMOHVA.

July 28 - August 4 – All 4 Fun in Leadville, CO – Cliff Meier noted that there were five vehicles from NM4W. Overall count was 350 vehicles and 800 people.

August 3 – Pre-run Mt. Blanca: Dixon joined Keith Jurey on the pre-run and made it through with 33's. He got stuck badly on Jaws 2-1/2 but was freed after an elaborate winch arrangement. Keith will probably stay overnight at the top for the Labor Day weekend run.

August 4 – San Miguel Mountain – Lauri Rector: The group (14 vehicles) enjoyed beautiful weather and awesome views, green as far as the eye could see. They also went to the Red Mountain fire lookout for more great views and enjoyed dinner at El Bruno's.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 11 – NM Council of Car Clubs Annual Picnic at Oak Flat Picnic Ground – Lauri Rector: Everyone is invited to the all car clubs picnic. NM4W is providing ice; 100 cars are expected.

August 18 – West Side of the Jemez – Jeff Boggs: Travel on rugged, scenic roads on the west side of the Jemez, working north. Leave 8:00 a.m.

August 30 - September 2 – Mt. Blanca – Keith Jurey: Keith will be in the Mt. Blanca area from Aug 23 – Sept 1 so contact him for information. So far, Jack Dickey is the only person signed up for the Labor Day weekend. On August 23, Leon and his neighbor Eric are running Mt. Blanca.

August 31 - September 2 – Red Rock 4-Wheelers Labor Day Event: Must register to attend. Cliff & Jeanne Meier plan to attend.

September 14 – Meeting at Frank & Beth Whiston's. Potluck starts around 5:00 pm. Directions on the club website.

October 4 - 6 – Thrill on the Hill Jeep Rally, Cloudcroft, NM. Sponsored by Desert Sun Jeep dealer.

October 10 - 13 – Conejos River Fall Colors Run. Frank G. Whiston will lead the run in Conejos Valley, CO. Camp at the Conejos River Campground, 12 miles west of Antonito, CO. Contact Frank if interested.

October 25 - 27 – SWFWDA Fall Quarterly Meeting, Mason TX. The Katemcy Rocks (K-2) area has good rocks.

TBD – Truth or Consequences area. Jack Dickey wants to put together a run at Caballo, Green Canyon, or other T or C trails.

BE A TRAIL LEADER—the more the Better

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar: After explaining the points system Leon put on his Sheriff's hat and assessed fines. In anticipation of things to come, Wolfie paid \$1 before the meeting even started. Having shown up one day early for Lauri's San Miguel Mountain Run, he was fined for failing to use a Smart phone to check the date and also for having a run at the San Ysidro Family Dollar parking lot. Lauri Rector fined herself \$0.25 for driving through a mighty cow pie and getting yucko on her and Paul Mariscal's Jeeps. Don Roy self-reported trail breakage. He had put in a new steering rod before Moab and a bolt came loose on the Cliffhanger run, resulting in a scary steering situation. Cliff Meier suggested that Don should be fined for bad judgment in bringing this up. Jeff Boggs added that on the Rio Puerco run, Gary Hirokawa should be fined for forgetting (twice) to lock his spare tire carrier.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Position vacant.

Santa Fe National Forest Lawsuit Update: Frank G. Whiston said that after the Judge denied Intervener status to Center for Biological Diversity, etc., they appealed and also

made a motion to stop the lawsuit until the appeal is decided. That means a possible 3-6 month delay. This is not necessarily a bad thing because it will allow time to respond to the Gila National Forest's Travel Management Plan which is expected out soon. One way to help is by contributing to NMOHVA's Access Defense Fund.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin: Jennifer sold raffle tickets and also explained the 50/50 raffle (50% of the cash raised goes to the raffle winner and 50% goes to NMOHVA).

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston: Frank is linking past trail photos to Trail Tales articles. He's done some old and some new in this ongoing project. He urged members to keep uploading photos to Picasa.

**Keep PUBLIC lands open
to the PUBLIC
KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!!**

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy: Don changed the Home/WebSite Change Log list of updates so one can more easily see what's been changed on the website. The "For Sale" listings were really old so he cleared out items >6 months old. In the future, after 3-4 months he'll remove an ad if the member hasn't done so. In the "Our Rigs" section, there's now a pop-up to add text to your rig photo. Lastly, Don added a new tool so the Vice President can see if new members listed a sponsor. At Lauri Rector's suggestion, Don will add a feature so Our Rigs can be sorted by vehicle make.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy: Not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Dues** must be paid by August 31. There are 19 current members who have not yet paid.
- **Awards.** Jennifer Chapin was announced as winner of Most Participation Points and was awarded \$100. Congratulations, Jennifer! The winners of Most Trails Led and the Special Raffle will be announced at the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **New Member.** Donnie Walker was voted in as a new member. Welcome, Donnie!
- **Thank You.** Tahoe Zahn thanked members for the cards and condolences sent after the recent loss of his youngest daughter.
- **4WD Hardware Club Rewards Program.** Frank G. Whiston explained a program offered by 4WD Hardware that allows a parts discount (up to 20%) to individuals and 3% cash back to NM4W for all orders placed by NM4W members. Terms of Agreement say that 4WD Hardware may share information with select companies. A member must opt-in to take advantage of this program. If a member enrolls, the default is not to share information. However, you can select to share information. Cliff noted that the program wants our club logo. There is a dropdown called Communities which lists clubs from around the country. After more discussion, it was motioned, seconded, and approved for Frank to put an article on the website explaining the program and allowing members to participate.

Thanks to Jeff and Paula Boggs for hosting the meeting in their lovely back yard in Rio Rancho.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:00 pm

Raffle Winners: Mark Wolf won both drawings: \$40 in the 50/50 raffle and a USA bottle opener.

Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site — it is continually updated and will have all of the contact information you need!!!



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

Well as they say, "I'm back!". I appreciate the opportunity to serve again as your President. In case you don't know, I was President for two years ending Jul 2012. Just a little back ground for those who may know me yet. Jeanne and I joined the club about 10 years ago. At that time we had a 2002 Chevrolet Tracker, that's right, a Tracker, not a Jeep. We kept the Tracker for about two years when I managed to break it at Jeep Safari. We then decided if we wanted to keep 4X4ing, we needed something stronger than a Tracker and got a 1998 TJ. But, still miss the 25 miles per gallon the Tracker got! We enjoy mostly moderate trail riding. Our favorite 4 wheeling areas are the Jemez, Moab, UT and southern Colorado. In addition to holding several offices in NM4W, President, Vice-President and Secretary, I am also the Events Chairman for the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association. Jeanne is the current Membership Secretary for the SWFWDA.



I would like to encourage all club members to become more involved with the club. This starts with attending our monthly meetings. Attendance has not been very good this year. We have one more summer meeting at the Whiston's and then we will start our winter meetings at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy, NE on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Members need to attend the meetings to voice their ideas and preferences on club activities. Trail Leaders for future runs are always needed. If you want harder or easier runs, volunteer to be a leader. Lastly, the club still needs an Environmental Director, it's a demanding position but important, especially with the lawsuit and the continuing loss of 4X4 trails.

It's time to start thinking about the club's bi-annual hosting of the SWFWDA Summer Quarterly next summer; it's our turn again! In a couple of months I will be looking for folks for the quarterly committee; first we need someone to take the lead. Last year we went to

Silverton where next year's All-4-Fun will be held. So, start thinking about it, one of the first things we will need decide will where it will be held. In the past we have held the event in Silverton, Ridgeway, Salida, Fairplay and Creede, all Colorado locations.

That's about all for now; hope to see everyone at the September meeting!



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

Open Position

The club needs a volunteer to fill the Environmental Affairs Director position. This is an important position with the law suit and other activity with the Forest Service/BLM going on. This is an excellent chance to give back to the club. Please consider volunteering. If you are interested contact me, sarmeier@yahoo.com, 281-3704 or at the meeting.



Meet the New Board of Directors

Secretary Joan Wolf

I have been a member for 19 years and this is my first time as an officer. Over the years, I've helped with various club activities but this year there was a need to step up and do more. Thus, I'm serving as club Secretary. I'm a rider, not a driver (I don't even like driving to the mall). But I've enjoyed riding to many wonderful places with NM4W, from Canyon de Chelly to Mt. Taylor to the Giant Footprint in the Jemez. Currently, I'm enjoying the comforts of riding in an air-conditioned '95 Jeep Grand Cherokee. Whether it's been riding in Wolfie's '71 Commando, the ugly brown '78 Wagoneer, the '68 Jeepster pickup, or the black '90 Comanche pickup, it's always fun to go trail riding with the great folks of NM4W.





Meet the New Board of Directors

Program Chairperson Jennifer Chapin

I joined the New Mexico 4-Wheelers in March of 2012 when I moved here from out east. I lived in Delaware and Maryland. I worked in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC. I have been working of Xerox Corporation for 15 years so I have lived in six different states, most more than one time.

I have had a 4 wheel drive truck for most of my life but I was not part of a 4 wheel drive group until I joined the Baltimore 4-Wheelers. I joined them on a few trips and found that I had so much fun I planned on continuing. I then found out that I got a different opportunity at work and it was in Albuquerque, New Mexico. I then immediately looked for 4 Wheel drive clubs. I saw there was a trip the first Saturday after I was due to arrive in Albuquerque. I emailed and said I would join for the trail ride. I got to meet many people on the Riley Ghost town ride that Saturday. I really enjoyed the trip and the people which of course I kept coming back after that.

You can't miss me in the group because I drive a black Hummer H3 with Pink accents on it.

George Washington Forest, VA 2012



Black Bear Pass, CO 2012



Cinnamon Pass, CO 2012





Meet the New Board of Directors

Historian Frank G. Whiston

I am a native, born in Albuquerque who has been 4-wheeling since I was in my mother's womb. My parents are Frank R. and Donna Whiston, also members of NM4W. Up until I got my first 4x4, I bounced around in the back seat of Dad's 71 Bronco traveling mostly in the 4-corners states and even as far as the Rubicon Trail in CA. Dad was President of another old 4x4 club called the Albuquerque Off-Road Runners which no longer exists. I came upon NM4W in the mid 90's at a club "Garage Sale" being held at Wolfie's house, but hesitated to join for the fact that I was working every weekend while I was attending college. I finished up school, got married to my wife Beth and steady employment, finally joining the club in 2003.

My 1st 4x4 was a 94 Ford Ranger pickup that I bought new, wheeling and modifying it until my we

knew that we were expecting a child. It just so happens that we found out right about the time that Jeep came out with the longer Wrangler Unlimited TJ. When I got first wind of this model in ABQ (March 04), the first one sold in ABQ came home with me. Now, 4-wheeling is a family thing, so look for us out on the trail [Frank, Beth, and daughters Kimberly (8) and Rebecca (5)].



Both Beth and I became officers in the club back in 2006, Beth as Secretary and I as Trip Chairman. I have served at varying capacities ever since including two terms as President. Why am I an officer? Active club members have always been a great group of people and I enjoy contributing to the club which creates that environment. This is my first time being Historian. Now that we have been members for 10 years, I wanted to reflect on the past, and possibly revisit some of those highlights again with the club.



Smart Phone Apps for Colorado Forests

By Cliff Meier

While at All-4-Fun, the Colorado Stay the Trail organization was handing out information on MVUMs that are available for tablets and smart phones. Below is the info that they were providing.

“Stay the Trail Colorado provides a central webpage where the public, organizations and agencies can download all US Forest Service Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) for National Forests and Grasslands located in Colorado. These maps are kept up to date as the US Forest Service updates their maps. Funding for this effort is provided by Colorado Parks and Wildlife in the form of grant funding that comes from registration of OHVs in Colorado. Stay the Trail and Great Outdoors Consultants have made the MVUMs “smarter” by making sure they all have geospatial information (the map knows where it is located in the world) and by providing them multiple formats. Smart MVUMs are provided in the following formats.

Geospatial PDF Files

Some National Forests are publishing PDF versions of MVUMs that are already geospatial which means that you can see map coordinates in Acrobat Reader using the geospatial location tool (found in the analysis toolbar/menu). These maps can also be imported into some mapping programs such as Global Mapper. MVUMs that did not have geospatial information were processed to add geospatial using Global Mapper software. All PDF MVUMs were exported in the following coordinate system: UTM - Zone 13 North – NAD1983 – meters.

PDF Maps <http://www.avenza.com/pdf-maps>

Geospatial PDFs can also be used on Apple and Android smart phones/tablets using Avenza’s free application called PDF Maps. After the PDF MVUM I downloaded on the mobile device, cellular coverage is not needed to use it. **This application shows the current GPS location of the user on the map and allows them to perform some basic GPS recording tasks!** The application allows you to show the location of geotagged photos you’ve taken with your mobile device right on the MVUM map. PDF Maps has an online map store that allows users of the app to find MVUMs by name or their current location. This app is being used to distribute free maps for the National Park Service, USGS Topo maps, and other free maps. The store also allows for sale of commercial maps such as National Geographic maps. All MVUMs found on the Stay the Trail webpage are now also available through the Avenza map store for free!

1. Go to “App Store”, search for “PDF Maps” and install
2. Open “PDF Maps”, select “Store” Function from the lower bar
3. Select the search function in top right corner
4. Search for “Stay The Trail” or “MVUM” or a Ranger District. Select from the pins that appear

5. Use the “Free” button to download to the phone
6. Downloaded maps show up in the “Maps” list on the lower left
7. Select the appropriate map for the district’s trails you will be using. Your location appears using GPS sensor.

Note: The Android version of the PDF Maps app is a beta version and is not currently linked to the Avenza map store. <apps can be loaded in the Android version by linking to the Stay the Trail webpage MVUMs, by e-mailing the PDF file or a link to it.”



Let's Hope The Moisture Keeps Coming Run

San Miguel Peak

8/04/2013
By Laurie Rector

We ran this trail many times as a club. We started from our camping area near porter landing and would just go up to the peak and come back down. We went out exploring on Mother's Day this year when we couldn't get the gate open to La Ventana. We went into the Jemez from the west side on FR20. When the Forest closed not too many weeks after, I thought that maybe, once it rained, if we planned a run in the forest, it would keep on raining. Sure enough it did, and the forest opened soon after I posted the run!!! It was like a rain dance.

We had 11 Jeeps, 1 H3 Hummer and a Toyota 4-Runner. Jennifer Jacobs & Durango in her '95 YJ, Jason Lavy in his '08 JK Unlimited, Paul & Holly Mariscal in their '99 TJ, Donnie Walker in his '00 TJ, Jeff & Paula Boggs in his '06 TJ Unlimited, Thomas Wilson in his '98 Cherokee, Ben Dacckewicz in his '00 Cherokee, Gregg Radtke and Bessel the dog in his (as in Greg's) '13 Rubicon Unlimited, Jennifer Chapin in her '08 Hummer, Don Roy and Janie Shows in his '93 YJ, me in my Rubicon, Adam, Kate & Gabe Babb in a '01 Toyota 4-Runner (I think it's Kate's), and Scott Cridge in his '13 JK.



We met at the empty lot next to the Familia Denero (Spanglish for Family Dollar) and left soon after 9am. I gave warning for our turn off from 550 and I just about missed it myself.

We made our way over to the forest boundary and then went into the forest before we aired down. I didn't do too bad finding my way over there; I did have to back up, but no one had to turn around.



The trail is nice and easy on the 1st leg. The weather was beautiful and there was no dust, so I had my windows down. I immediately ran over fresh cow dung and flung dung all over the driver side of my Jeep and Paul Mariscal's Jeep. There were nice views as you get up fairly high in altitude. We made good time on this part of the trail, so I decided to stop in a meadow so everyone could get

out and stretch their legs. Someone got out a Frisbee and was playing catch with their dog. The cows did not like this at all, so they all ran off.

The next leg of the trail takes you up to San Miguel Peak. This section has very little maintenance to it. It's not hard, but a lot more interesting than what we had been on. We did have to stop for about 5 minutes and get the group all scrunched up again, so there were some people that did have to work just a little at getting through this section.

The trail on the last 100' feet or so to the peak is very steep. I myself am not real comfortable with steep. So, my throat closed up and I got teary eyed (or maybe I was crying?). Then when you get to the top, you have to make a very sharp left turn. You can't see a thing, because there is nothing if you go straight or to the right, so you've got to make that left turn. I'm feeling like I'm out wheeling in a Fire Engine truck when I have to make sharp turns like that. Not too much fun. However, the view from the top is absolutely spectacular and so worth all that fear and freaking out that I do on the way up. We got all the vehicles up there and parked at 11:30. So I called it "lunch time" and we got out our food and found a nice shady spot with a view. We had a really nice lunch up there, good conversation as always.

So then we headed back down, after having to make the sharp right turn to go back down the steep hill. And, no, you can't really see too much at all. And, even though I know it's there, I still had the same fear and was freaking out the whole way on that turn. Once I could see the trail, I calmed down and was good to go.

The trail down is very similar to the way up. But, since we were falling down everything, we all pretty much were able to keep up. We got back out to the main road by 2:00, so we decided to do another short trail. Ben Dackewicz and Thomas Wilson knew of another peak nearby, so they lead the way. Don & Janie and the Babbs went ahead and headed on home rather than going on with us.



The GPS in my Jeep showed us on a road called Red Mountain Peak. There was a tower there at one point, but it had been taken down. There were a lot of storms around and you could see for what looked like miles. But, all you could see were mountains with a lot of trees. It reminded me of how the Smokey Mountains looked when we got up to the top of a mountain when we were wheelin' out there.

Due to the lightning and impending rain, we didn't stay up there too long. So we headed on our way back down. Ben and Thomas headed back when we got out to the main road and we took a short cut over to 124 to go into Cuba.

The rest of us all went out to El Bruno's. Almost everyone went ahead and ate dinner with their adult beverage (Margarita's). We were waiting on our checks when it started raining, so our timing was just almost impeccable.

It was a really great run and I think everyone really enjoyed it. It's one that we should do again next year.



Jemez West Side Ride

8/18/2013

By Jeff Boggs

August 18th, 2013, Sunday: The NM4W went on a ride in the Jemez Mountains, starting at Walatowa Gas Station. All dark colored vehicles met up and off we went through the Gilman Tunnels and followed several rugged Forest roads in the west side of the Jemez Mts. There was mud and rocks, and great scenery. A mud puddle / waterbar snagged Gregg and Jennifer, but a tow strap took care of that problem. Some places were harder than they looked. We found our way up FR 239, FR 653, FR 558, FR 488. Had Lunch at FR 535. Bessel, the dog, caught Frisbees thrown by Gregg. After lunch we checked out some other FR's in that area, ending up just north of the Girl Scout camp. We saw an Elk, a deer and 12 turkeys at different times on this trip. We picked up litter along the road also.



We took our return route up FR 539B, FR535L, and FR 535, over Smokey Bear Hill. We had to cut a tree off the road, which was too low to drive under. A Stihl hand saw did the trick.



We finished the day down FR 534 to Porter's Landing and back to the Gillman Tunnels. A little later than expected, back to Walatowa, but not Telepak late!!!! (just ask members who have been on his rides). Cliff had time for another prune pie from the roadside stands. We aired up and visited, then headed back to town.

Thanks for a good day. We all pitched in to get through some unexpectedly hard spots on this ride. We found some new roads that none of us had ever been on. There

are FR 's that are open that keep going up north. We will get up early and check out these, at a later date.

Keep supporting NMOHVA in their lawsuit to reopen all the now closed FR's in the Santa Fe National Forest. These closed roads were never used much and so no damage has been done to them. These FR's should be open for the occasional motorized vehicle to explore these backcountry areas and for camping, too. See ya next time!!





Bench Testing Makes it Easier!

By Mark Mullin

N M 4Wheelers,

I've been turning wrenches and smashing my thumbs since about 1965. I've built Harley's, boats, Jeeps, etc.; so when I did what I'm about to tell you, you'd think I would know better!

After installing a compressor some time ago, I finally bought a tank, fittings, hoses, pressure switch, pop-off valve, etc., and got busy on the bench to complete the Avitar install.

My shop is well equipped. Wish I could say the same for my brain. Oh well. So I dig in - small brass brush, Teflon tape, special tools, the whole nine yards. But I got in a hurry and I got cocky.

Hey, I said, "brand new fittings, cleanliness, proper torque, I'll install it".

Aired it up and..... Leaked like an old boat; four locations. Impossible to access. It all had to come out where it was redone, pressurized and soap tested!

Why didn't I bench test it the first time???? ARROGANCE!!!!!!

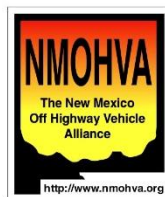
Hold the applause please.

See you in when the dust clears, Mark Mullin

NM4W Officers

President Cliff Meier 281-3704 pr@nm4w.org	Vice-President Leon Duggar 235-8988 vp@nm4w.org	Secretary Joan Wolf 856-8539 se@nm4w.org
Treasurer Dixon Patrick 271-9133 tr@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Jennifer Chapin 305-333-3375 pc@nm4w.org	Historian Frank G. Whiston 280-7922 hi@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Position Open de@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, wa@nm4w.org
Newsletter editor, Phil Rodacy, ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



October 1, 2013

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2013

by Joan Wolf



The September meeting was held at the home of Frank and Beth Whiston and called to order at 6:03 p.m. by President Cliff Meier.

GUESTS: David & Becky Ham ('05 Grand Cherokee), Dave Plaster & Sandy McIntosh (three Jeeps), and Priscilla & Ernie Romero (Rubicon).

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Jennifer Chapin, Jack & Cathy Dickey, Leon Duggar, Jennifer Jacobs, Linda Jurey, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Bob & Carol Provance, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy, Donnie Walker, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf: It was motioned, seconded, and approved to dispense with reading of the August meeting minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick: Balance of \$2,825.35 was reported and accepted.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs: Not present, so others filled in.

PAST EVENTS:

August 11 – NM Council of Car Clubs Annual Picnic at Oak Flat Picnic Ground – Lauri Rector: Jennifer Chapin reported that five members attended (approximately 400 attendees total). Jeff Boggs won a balloon ride in the raffle.

August 18 – Jemez West Side – Jeff Boggs: See Jeff's article and photos in the September 1 Trail Tales.

August 23 – Mt. Blanca – Keith Jurey/Leon Duggar: Great run according to Leon. Winch line was used a few times.

August 25 – Medano Pass (Colorado) – Keith Jurey/Cliff Meier: Cliff said it was a beautiful, easy run (except when his power steering pump quit, which made steering rather difficult).

August 30 – Gordy's Hill – Paul Mariscal: No report.

August 31 - September 2 – Red Rock 4-Wheelers Labor Day Event: At approximately 100 vehicles, this is a scaled-down version of the Moab Easter Jeep Safari. Cliff and Jeanne Meier and Associate Member, Don Walker, participated.

September 8 – Gordy’s Hill – Don Roy: There were 6 trucks. It was a tough day for tie-rods. Donnie Walker’s broke and Daniel Montano’s “tweaked” (must be a gearhead term). The group did hard and easy stuff, great fun.

Cliff suggested that the club schedule more challenging runs for the built-up vehicles. Also, pay attention to the trail description to be sure your vehicle is capable.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 15 – Manzano Mountains – Cliff Meier: **CANCELLED** due to heavy rain. Might be rescheduled in early November.

October 4 - 6 – Thrill on the Hill Jeep Rally, Cloudcroft, NM. Sponsored by Desert Sun Jeep dealer. Might be targeted for first-time Jeep owners.

October 10 – Meeting at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 7:00 p.m. 8600 Academy NE. Park at rear of church; meeting is in Adult Ed building. Hosts: Linda & Keith Jurey.

October 10 - 13 – Conejos River Fall Colors Run – Frank G. Whiston: Scenic drives in search of Fall colors. Day 1 may include lunch at Osier (Cumbres & Toltec railroad stop). Day 2 may be a loop drive north of Colorado Hwy 17.

October 25 - 27 – SWFWDA Fall Quarterly Meeting, Mason TX. The Katemcy Rocks (K-2) off road park. The area has good rocks; easy to hard trails.

TBD Oct-Nov timeframe – Truth or Consequences area – Jack Dickey. Possibly Palomas Gap/Apache Gap (moderate) and Green Canyon (moderate to hard).

November 14 – Meeting at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 7:00 p.m. Host: Jennifer Chapin.

WAY-OUT-THERE UPCOMING EVENTS:

Date TBD 2014 – Hole in the Rock UT – Keith Jurey will lead this if there is sufficient interest. Contact Cliff since Keith is in the process of moving to Kansas.

May 8 – 15, 2014 – Moab & Green River UT – Cliff & Jeanne Meier.

July 27 – August 2, 2014 – All-4-Fun, Silverton, CO.

October 15 - 18, 2014 – Chile Challenge, Las Cruces NM, SWFWDA Fall Quarterly Meeting. The Chile Challenge date is changing from February to October. Cliff works in October and cannot organize the raffle (the Association’s main fundraiser). Cliff is seeking a new SWFWDA Events Chairperson to run the raffle and fill his position. Contact Cliff with suggestions or nominations (you can nominate yourself).

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VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar: Leon explained that the points system allows prospective members to check out the club and vice versa. As Sheriff, he assessed fines:

- Leon Duggar, \$0.25, for puncturing a puncture-resistant sidewall on Mt Blanca.
- Cliff Meier, \$0.25, incorrect tools for fixing power steering pump at Medano Pass.
- Jennifer Jacobs fell off a rock and tilted badly on the Jemez run—but no fine assessed. Details were too sketchy.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Position vacant. Member reports:

- **Tank Trap:** After watching a YouTube video of someone running Tank Trap (closed per the Travel Management Plan), Don Roy contacted the driver. The individual said he talked to the Forest Service Ranger and was told he could use it. Don is thinking of talking to the Espanola Ranger District and asking if we could make an annual Tank Trap run by permit.
- **Gila National Forest:** Frank G. Whiston received a NMOHVA email saying that the Gila NF has new maps. This indicates that the Gila is almost ready to issue their Travel Management Rule. NMOHVA will likely appeal.
- **BLM TriCounty Resource Management Plan:** This draft plan affects Las Cruces, Alamogordo, and T or C. The comment period is extended to Oct 12. This is a huge document that affects roads, minerals, recreation, etc. for 20 years. Jack Dickey noted that Steve Pearce's office is watching that both the USFS and the BLM are following correct procedures.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin: Jennifer explained that in the 50/50 raffle 50% of the cash raised goes to the raffle winner and 50% goes to the club. Last year club members voted to donate the club's share to NMOHVA for FY13. (See below, New Business; this was extended for FY14.) Jennifer had club t-shirts, etc., for sale.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston: Keep sharing your photos on Picasa. Frank is migrating older photos to the website and putting Trail Tales' articles on Gallery.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy: In Our Rigs, you can now search by vehicle make. Don encouraged everyone to populate the "Original Join Date" in the Profile/Membership section. While there, update "Who Sponsored You". This will be good historical data. Don is working on a Member's Bio feature that will allow everyone to enter a few paragraphs and a mugshot. This could be useful for new members as they try to become acquainted.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy: Articles are welcome on anything of general interest. Also, Jennifer Chapin mentioned that there are two articles in the U4WDA's The Voice newsletter featuring NM4W. Read Jennifer's article, "2013 New Mexico 4Wheelers Ride for the Cure" (page 41) and Frank G. Whiston's article, "Travel Management Lemonade, A Trip to Eureka Mesa", (page 50) at

<http://content.yudu.com/Library/A2e0oh/UFWDVoiceAugust2013/resources/index.htm?referrerUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ufwda.org%2Fthe-voice%2F>

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OLD BUSINESS:

- **Most Trails Led Award in 2012-13.** The winner, Guy Conway, donated the \$100 prize to NMOHVA.
- **Special Participation Award in 2012-13.** The winner was chosen by a drawing (the more one's participation, the better one's chance). The winner, Bob Provance, received \$100.
- **Environmental Affairs Director.** This important club position needs to be filled. If interested, contact Cliff.
- **4WD Hardware Promotion "Club Rewards".** Frank G. Whiston explained a program offered by 4WD Hardware that allows up to 20% discount on parts and 3% cash back to NM4W. Notify Frank if you opt-in so that he can add you to the list of NM4W participants. Frank recently received his rewards card and hasn't gotten bombarded with emails.
- **NM4W Business Cards.** Jennifer Chapin printed more cards. Give them to friends, acquaintances, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2014 Summer Quarterly.** Going by past history of hosting every two years, Summer 2014 is when NM4W would host the SWFWDA Quarterly event/meeting. Jennifer Chapin volunteered to serve as event coordinator. Jennifer Jacobs will "tag-team it" (a BIG thank you to Jennifer C and Jennifer J)! The first tasks are to pick the location and date. A proposal needs to be submitted for the Association's Fall meeting.
- **Hosts for Winter meetings**
October – Linda & Keith Jurey
November – Jennifer Chapin
December – Dixon & Zelda Patrick
January – Jeanne & Cliff Meier
February – Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell
March – Leon & Marcia Duggar
April – Phil & Ilene Rodacy
- **4X4 101 Class.** This could help folks new to 4-wheeling, like the Auge classes of old. It was motioned by Tracy Bakewell, seconded by Jennifer Chapin, and passed that Bob Provance start a To-Do list and a lesson plan. Resources could include U4WDA's 4-wheeling awareness program and handouts that may be in the President's briefcase.
- **50/50 Raffle.** Jeanne Meier noted that last year the members voted to donate the club's share of the 50/50 raffle to NMOHVA for FY13-14. It was then motioned, seconded, and passed to donate the club's share of the 50/50 raffle to NMOHVA for FY14-15.
- **New Members.** None.

Thanks to Frank and Beth for hosting the meeting in their rain-free back yard.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:00 pm

Raffle Winners: Tracy Bakewell won \$29 in the 50/50 raffle and Ernie Romero won a Painless Performance gift certificate.

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR ON THE WEB SITE — IT IS CONTINUALLY UPDATED AND ADDED TO AND WILL HAVE ALL OF THE CONTACT INFORMATION YOU NEED!!!



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

We really had a good turnout for the September meeting at the Whiston's. It was good to see everyone there and we had three prospective guest families there too. Frank and Beth did an outstanding job of hosting the meeting; they even scheduled the rain to stop!!

Be sure to keep an eye on the club calendar. Planning is starting for events next year some of which are the trip to Moab/Green River, the 2014 SWFWDA Summer Quarterly, a trip to the Hole in the Rock trail in southern Utah, Mt Blanca and the 2014 Chile Challenge.

It's the club's turn to host next year's Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association's (SWFWDA) summer quarterly. The club hosts the event every two years and it's time to start planning. In past years we have held the event at Silverton, Creede, Salida, Ridgeway and Fairplay, CO. I asked a volunteer to lead the event. I didn't get a single volunteer, I got two!! Jennifer Chaplin and Jenifer Jacobs, the two Jennifers! They are working to select the location and date, these that have to be submitted to SWFWA for approval at the Fall Quarterly in Oct. The next step will be the Jennifers looking for volunteers for the several very important event committee jobs.

If you haven't heard, the Chile Challenge is being moved from Feb to Oct starting in 2014. The primary reason for moving it is to increase participation by moving it away from the dates of several large 4X4 events that have tended to conflict with the Feb date. The date for the 2014 Chile Challenge will be Oct 15-18.

During the meeting I raised the idea for offering a 4X4 101 class targeted for new members (old members too if interested) who have limited 4X4 experience. It could be similar to the old 4X4 101 class the club held at Augies in Belen a number of years ago. The overall consensus was that it was a good idea. Bob Provance offered some ideas and quickly volunteered to head it up. Thanks Bob!

The September meeting was our last summer meeting held at a club member's home. The October meeting will start the meetings at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Academy. There are directions on the website calendar.

As I close this out, I would really like to thank everyone who has volunteered to work stuff for the club, without them the club would not survive!! **But, I still need a volunteer for the Environmental Director position.** This is an important position and needs to be filled as soon as possible. Please contact me if you are interested.



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

Open Position

The club needs a volunteer to fill the Environmental Affairs Director position. This is an important position with the law suit and other activity with the Forest Service/BLM going on. This is an excellent chance to give back to the club. Please consider volunteering. If you are interested contact me, sarmeier@yahoo.com, 281-3704 or at the meeting.



Red Rock 4-Wheelers Day Campout / Moab

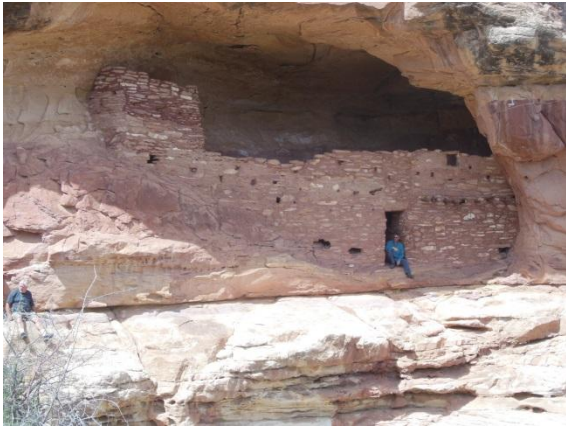
Aug 31 – Sept. 2, 2013

By Cliff Meier

On Aug 31 three members of the club, Don Walker and Cliff & Jeanne Meier, met in Moab to attend the Red Rock 4 Wheelers' Labor Day Campout. The event is a much scaled down Jeep Safari with 50-100 vehicles that included three days of runs on the famous Moab trails and a three day campout in Beef Basin, located about 60 miles southwest of Moab. Beef Basin is known for its many Indian ruins. The event was headquartered out of the Moab Rim Campground. Moab Rim was a small but very nice campground just south of Moab on Hwy 191.

Lead by Frenchie La Chance, we left Moab Sat morning with 6 vehicles, a 7th caught up the next day, and headed to Beef Basin. The weather was great, a little over cast with a few showers for the entire trip, keeping the temperatures down. It had rained hard the days before and there were several water crossings, one of which we had to shovel down the banks to get across. Even with the shoveling, two of JK four doors had high centering problems, but in the end we all made it.





We arrived at the campsite and set up for two nights. We spent three days exploring the many ruins from just foundations to a cliff dwelling with several rooms. To get into the cliff dwelling, several of the brave explorers had to transverse about 10 feet across a rock face that had a real “pucker” factor.

One of the camp highlights was for dinner each evening was Jeoper’s goulash. You ask what is that? Well, everyone brought ingredients, meat, veggies, etc. and all were thrown in a pot and cooked with some secret spices that Frenchie had brought, it turnout

really good! Especially with the super desserts that following! Another highlight was the portable shower that Frenchie brought! No stinky camper there!! All I can say is that Frenchie sure knows how to lead a camp out run!

On Sep 2, with heavy hearts, we returned to Moab and then on home, This was the second Labor Day Campout that Jeannie and I have attended and both have been well worth it. We highly recommend them.



Gordy’s Hill: You can follow me but it’s gona hurt

Sept. 8, 2013

By Don Roy

While living on the east coast for my first 14 years of off-roading (been in Albuquerque since 2011), I was raised on a steady diet of trails that absolutely needed lockers and 35’s, generally well built rigs. There were virtually no trails that a stock Jeep could handle. I had been to Gordy’s Hill a couple times with Jeff Boggs, knew there were tough trails there, so I threw this ride together to get some of the old pucker factor back.

We had 6 trucks, and as it turned out, all guys. I was joined by Jeff Boggs, Jack Dickey, Mark Bergland, Daniel Montano, and Donnie Walker. All but Donnie had lockers, but he had 37" tires, so the day was looking good. We met up, unloaded the four Jeeps that came on trailers, and were off to the first trailhead before 9AM. We did 'Hidden Valley', then made a left onto 'Bad Hair Day'.

Near the end of that Bad Hair Day, Donnie's tie rod (a stock part, EG not robust) pretzeled itself a quite a bit and made his rig very pidgin-toed. We spent less than an hour to sleeve it with his hi-lift jack handle, better than new! Not a NASCAR pitstop, but a pretty easy trail fix. After being



repaired and having had a couple hour taste of what the rest of the day would be, Donnie decided to head back to Albuquerque. Jeff ushered him to pavement while the rest had lunch.

After lunch and Jeff's return, we went to the 'Play Area', then to 'Lower Amado'. In the Play Area, Daniel's also tweaked his stock tie rod. He was trailering though, so since he only had to hobble back to the trailer, we didn't repair anything. It was getting hot by the end of Lower Amado trail, so we decided to call it a day. We got back to the trailers and were

loaded up by about 4pm.

The four of us that made it to the end of the day really had great time and decided we should book more of this sort of ride. I'm told that a few years back, there was a group that liked a steady diet of tougher trails, but it seemed to have faded away by the time I got here in 2011. There will definitely be more NM4W 'well built rigs only' rides, so stay tuned.



Medano Pass Run

August 26, 2013

By Cliff Meier

On Aug 26 Jeanne and I met Keith Jurey in southern Colorado to run the Medano Pass trail. The trail to Medano Pass starts at the Great Sand Dunes National Monument near Ft Garland, CO. This is an easy trail but very scenic. We met Keith the afternoon before the run in Ft Garland and continued to his lot in Forbes Park where we camped for two nights. Monday morning we set off for the trail head. The trail starts on the east side of the monument right beside one of the big sand dunes and Medano Creek. The only challenging part of the trail can be crossing and driving through sand at the beginning. It had been raining the days before so the sand was mostly packed and we did not have any problems with it. The trail winds up to the pass through a narrowing valley that was very green.



There were campsites along the valley which had few campers in them. The trail crossed several streams that were running with water. We followed Keith to the top of the 10,000 foot pass where we met two off road motorcycle riders.

After reaching the pass, we continued down the east side to the Highway. The only issue on the run was I pulled up on the Highway I felt a vibration and lost my power steering! Yes, a TJ steers

really hard with any power steering. The one of the bearing in the pump had destroyed itself and the seal failed. All the fluid was gone. We limped into Walsenburg where Keith went and got his truck. We then towed the Jeep back to where we were camping. The next day I towed the Jeep to my son's in Durango where I got it fixed before continuing on the Moab for the Red Rocker's Labor Day Campout.

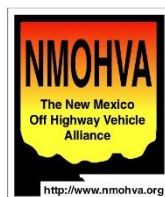




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Trail Tales



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Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2013

by Jeannie Meier



The meeting was held October 10th at Heights Presbyterian Church.

Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:03. Cliff indicated that several officers were on the Conejos Run including Joan Wolf so Jeanne Meier would be acting secretary.

Guests: NaDeen Jackson, Sandra McIntosh, David Plaster.

Members Present: Cheryle Bakewell, Tracy Bakewell, Kevin Cox, Gary Hirokawa, Keith and Linda Jurey, Jason Lavy, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Daniel Montano, Bob and Sandy Powell, Bob and Carol Provance, Ilene and Phil Rodacy, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Donnie Walker, Mark Werkmeister, Tahoe Zahn.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: Joan Wolf was not present. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Dixon Patrick: The club has a balance of \$2640.48.

Vice President Report – Leon Duggar was not present. Cliff Meier reviewed points for the guests.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Vacant: Cliff asked for volunteers for this position. Mark Werkmeister was present and indicated that the travel management on the Gila appears to be scheduled for release spring 2014.

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Trip Chairman's Report – Jeff Boggs: Jeff was not present so Cliff Meier went through the list of runs.

Past Events:

Oct 4-6 Thrill on the Hill –Cloudcroft NM. It was reported that members had attended the run but was not present to report on the run.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

Oct 10th-13th Conejos River Fall Colors Run – Occurring at the time of the meeting. The only report was that attendees found snow when they arrived in Conejos.

Oct 25th-27th SWFWDA Fall Quarterly Meeting – Mason TX

Nov 14th NM4W Monthly Meeting – Heights Presbyterian Church, 7:00 PM
Nov 23rd NM4W Holiday Food Drive – 3:00 Deliver food collected to the Road Runner Food Drive broadcast by KOB-TV. If anyone wants to make a donation but cannot attend bring donations to the November meeting.

May 1st-3rd Hole in the Rock Run – Members only See website as details are developed.

May 8th-15th Moab/Green River Trip – Members only. See website as details are developed.

Sept 6th-7th Mt Blanca Run – Members only. See website as details are posted.

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Program Chairman's Report – Tracy Bakewell: Jennifer Chapin was not present. Carol Provance was selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle. Sandy Powell had donated a sweatshirt, t-shirt and hat for the drawing.

Historian's Report – Frank Whiston: Frank was on the Conejos run and not present so there was no report.

Web Master – Don Roy: Don indicated a function was available for member to add a bio to their membership.

Old Business:

SWFWDA Summer Quarterly – NM4W is planning on hosting the Summer Quarterly Meeting July 10th-12th in Salida Colorado. Watch the website for more information. Jennifer Chapin and Jennifer Jacobs have volunteered to organize the event. Questions arose about the suggestion to disband SWFWDA, see new business, and Cliff suggested that we proceed with plans whether it is a quarterly meeting or just a club event.

4x4 101 Class – Bob Provance indicated it is in the planning stage and he will have a report next month.

4WD Hardware Promotion ‘Club Rewards’ – Members can opt into this program on the club website. Members that opt into this program by 4WD Hardware will receive a 20% discount on parts order and NM4W will get 3% cash back. Check website for more details on this program.

New Business:

Letter from David Teague, President SWFWDA – David Teague had sent a letter to contacts for the member clubs concerning apathy of member clubs and their members leaving no nominations for the upcoming elections of officers. Cliff Meier in turn had forwarded the letter to the members of NM4W. The letter suggested that it may be time to disband SWFWDA. Various suggestions were made including dividing the association into two organizations, one of New Mexico clubs and the other active clubs. Another suggestion was to hold the meeting through teleconference so travel wouldn’t be an issue. It was pointed out that even though NM4W is a growing club we have trouble with attendance at meetings and getting volunteers for offices each year. Cliff encouraged anyone with ideas or an interest in an office to email David at the email address in the letter.

Cliff thanked Linda and Keith Jurey for hosting the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

Hosts for Upcoming Meetings:

November	Jennifer Chapin
December	Christmas Party – Dixon and Zelda Patrick
January	Cliff and Jeanne Meier
February	Tracy and Cheryle Bakewell
March	Lean and Marcia Duggar
April	Phil and Ilene Rodacy



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

Everyone in the club should have been e-mailed a copy of the letter from David Teague, the President of Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association (SWFWDA) addressing the possible disbanding of the Association due to the lack of volunteers for the officer positions. He asked for comments from all the Association members. He has received numerous replies saying the Association should continue, but he did not receive even one volunteer to serve as an officer as a result of the letter. I do have a volunteer to fill the Event Chairman position that I cannot continue to fill due to the change in the Chile Challenge date which conflicts with other commitments I have in October. The annual SWFWDA raffle is the major fund raiser and is held during the Chile Challenge. But the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Webmaster and Director of Communications all need to be filled. Several of the incumbents may choose to continue in their positions. But there are no volunteers running for the President, Vice-President and Director of Communications positions. If no one steps forward, there may be no choice but to disband the Association. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these positions, contact David Teague at texas_4play@yahoo.com.

Many of our new and some older members do not know what SWFWDA is all about. I have included in this club newsletter a history of the Association. This history was the result of a scholarship completion in 2010-and 2011.

As it has been difficult to get volunteers for SWFWDA, our club can't seem to fill the important Environmental Director position. This is an important position and needs to be filled as soon as possible. Please contact me if you are interested.

It's that time of year when we as a club can give back to our Albuquerque community through the Road Runner Food Bank's annual food drive. Please participate in the food drive on Saturday November 23. See the club calendar for details.

That's about all for now; see everyone at the November meeting on the 14th.



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs Open Position

The club needs a volunteer to fill the Environmental Affairs Director position. This is an important position with the law suit and other activity with the Forest Service/BLM going on. This is an excellent chance to give back to the club. Please consider volunteering. If you are interested contact me, sarmeier@yahoo.com, 281-3704 or at the meeting.



A History of the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association

Contributed by Cliff Meier

November 9th, 1991 marks the start of a dream. Alan Gilmore, founder and first president, envisioned an association with which his passion for four wheeling and the need for a southern voice in the fight for public land could come together and unite. Alan contacted other likeminded individuals and clubs, and laid down a mission.

- Promote interest and provide education in organized 4-wheeling and the safe and responsible use of off-highway vehicles.
- Keep members informed of the needs of vehicular recreationists, and to keep Association members informed of impending legislation and land use matters.
- Enjoy and protect all local, state, and national resources, and to assist various government agencies in the development of off-road trails and areas.
- Render aid and assistance as needed.

- Adhere to the principles and practices of United Four Wheel Drive Associations, Blue Ribbon Coalition, and Tread Lightly! and to maintain active membership in UFWDA as an Association.

At Leasburg State Park north of Las Cruces, New Mexico, 33 rigs from 7 different clubs and nearly 80 people spanning across 2 states gathered for the first meeting of the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association. The clubs represented were; Cliffhangers, FWD-FWD, Jeeps Exclusive, Sun Country Jeep Club, New Mexico 4-Wheelers, Catch'N Air, Tejano Fourwheelers, and 4x4 and More of Texas. First order was having a little fun; Sun Country Jeep Club from El Paso hosted the event and after a short orientation led the group into the foothills of the Dona Ana Mountains.

Once SWFWDA was off and running the next order of business was just that, business. The second meeting was held in Albuquerque, NM on February 29, 1992. Here the association established the official publication

(4WDrive Lines), the motto, (Four Wheeling Responsibly), and discussed logos that had been submitted.



They decided on the logo that graces decals, t-shirts, and hats to this day.

With the bylaws and formal details ironed out the mission of the association was laid down and word began to spread to other clubs in the area and surrounding states.

By the end of 1992 SWFWDA had grown from the 7 original clubs to 14 member clubs and 54 individual members. More clubs in Texas and New Mexico were being contacted as well as clubs across the southwest. Attendance at quarterly meetings was booming and fun was being had by all.



It is very important to master proper hammock rigging if you are within driving distance of a beach!

Enjoying the sport was not the only thing SWFWDA was established to do. The 4W Drive Lines became an important resource for its members. Through the publication members were able to receive information on legislation that was taking place and effecting public lands. Members were able to stay informed of local, state, and federal land closures and openings, or proposals of such.



The officers of SWFWDA urged its members to take a stand and write letters to the representatives and agencies involved in public land use matters. Drive Lines makes an effort to educate all who enjoyed 4-wheeling as a sport; to get everyone to pitch in and make change happen. Nelson Mandela said; Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. If members could do their part a change could be seen and land could be persevered for future generations.

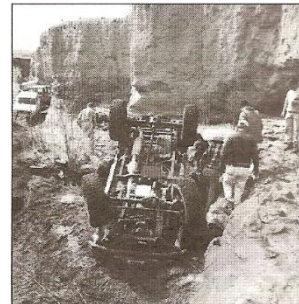
As the years passed the rapid amount of growth which had been seen in the beginning began to plateau. In the fall quarter of 1995 officers of SWFWDA began to plead with member to do their part and spread the word about the association and the role it plays. Growth would mean a bigger voice, more fun and more four wheeling. After a bit of a dry spell in new membership, SWFWDA seemed to start growing again and by the next year had 26 member clubs. That year new leadership came in and a critical look was taken at the purpose and goals of SWFWDA. The

association decided to write a formal plan for their future that contained goals and objectives that they would strive to achieve over the following years.

- Goal: Grow Stronger
 - Objective: Increase Membership
 - Objective: Establish SWFWDA officer credibility and effectiveness
 - Objective: Help United Four Wheel Drive Association grow stronger
 - Procure SWFWDA Event Insurance
- Goal: Communicate Effectively
 - Objective: Use emerging electronic media to better serve our members
 - Objective: Hold more productive business meetings
 - Objective: Hold regular communication with member clubs and individuals
- Goal: Keep Land Open for Four Wheeling
 - Objective: Establish a cohesive and coherent SWFWDA land use and environmental position.
 - Objective : Be a contributing member to the larger family of multiple-use advocates
 - Objective: Increase individual club member participation in letter writing campaign



Scaling the 1st part of the new Crazy Horse trail. Photo by James Stovall



By the end of 1997 SWFWDA was 30 member clubs strong and the association had surpassed the 1000 member mark. Also in '97 SWFWDA established a Land Action Fund. This was a fund made up of donations from clubs, individuals, businesses, and events that help to finance activities aimed at keeping public lands opened for public use. It was not until 1999 that SWFWDA was able to put the fund into action. That year the Land Action Fund was used in two land

closure lawsuits against the Forest Service. SWFWDA was finally able to exercise their right to assess public land and was able to back up their rights in court.

In the year 2001, ten years after the birth of SWFWDA, history was made on the Dona Ana Mountains, the same place where the association held their very first meeting. On February 3rd & 4th 300 plus volunteers showed up to participate in the largest land clean up ever seen



NM4W employs the "human factor" to keep Derren Owen's front wheels in contact with Mother Earth.

in the area. The event was sponsored by Wal-Mart, Rent X, US Rentals, Able Sign Co, Brent Westmoreland, Shorty's Chevron, Robertos', Southwest Disposal, the Dona Ana Roads, Environmental,

Sheriff's Department, and the Dona Ana County Grants Commission. Other groups that participated were Agape Christian Church, NMSU Polo Club, Mountain Bike Club, and three different VICA clubs from Dona Ana Community College branch, Fort Seldon 4H club and countless individuals who had just heard about the event. Tony Liello spearheaded the event and he and the other members of the Las Cruces FWD club were very pleased with the outcome. Events like this are essential parts of what makes SWFWDA who they are. Rendering aid and assistance as needed was one of the missions laid out with the start of the association. For SWFWDA helping others is not an obligation it's a way of life.



2002 proved to be a rough year for SWFWDA beginning with the Spring Quarterly. With only two clubs being represented at the meeting the association did not have enough representation to establish a quorum-so no meeting. Poor attendance at quarterly meetings

had been a problem before but it had now become a critical issue. The association would have a hard time supporting its members effectively if the members would not do their part in participating.

In 2003 concerns continued to develop with the Robledo Canyon lawsuit, which was started in 1999. The winning of the lawsuit would have a major effect on not only SWFWDA but associations across the nation. The impact would open many doors for other suits against the BLM for un-constitutional land closures. However, it was a hard process because the BLM and Wilderness group had very deep pockets and SWFWDA was working solely on the support of its clubs and members. Despite road blocks the battle for justice continued on but resulted in a loss for the SWFWDA.

As time went on it became apparent that Off-Road was growing in



popularity. The number of people 16 years and older participating in off-road activities at the turn of the century was around 37,600,000. By 2003 the number had risen to 49,600,000. By 2007 it was becoming one of America's fastest growing sports although the land availability for the sport continued to dwindle. Parents were beginning to realize the need of their families to participate in



wholesome outdoor activities. It gave SWFWDA an opportunity to pass on knowledge and teach the next generation to be good stewards of this land. But even with the rise in popularity SWFWDA had a hard time finding volunteers to fill roles as officers. It seemed that after losing the Robledo Mountain case members became disinterested in the efforts of the organization. But there are still those how have not lost hope. There are the committed members holding on to not only the fun of 4-wheeling but to the principals laid down those many years ago by the founding members. Those who not only wanted to show others their passion and hobby, but wanted to preserve the land on which they so

loved. Though time has passed and people change, the purpose remains the same. Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association will live on thanks to that love and purpose. The story doesn't end here.

Four Wheeling Responsibly,

Jordanya Porter



Conejos
October 10 - 13, 2013
By Frank Whiston

The third time is the charm! We have been inviting the club to join us for a trip to the Conejos area for many years now. The first time was back in 2005, around Labor Day. We only had the Meiers and Grevens with us then. Although there were no big expectations of seeing the aspens turning then, I had hoped that we would see the start. Two years ago, we returned doubling attendance with 4 vehicles. This was in late September and all of the aspens were still green. This year, we had 11 vehicles, beautiful tree color, and surprise SNOW!



Timing was chosen by the kid's school schedule where October 10-13 was Fall Break. All but the Holfielder family traveled up on Thursday to the Conejos River Campground. Robert Holfielder was watching the forecast and decided that the predicted wind and rain turning to snow did not sound like fun in their pop-up trailer. Guests Mathew and Leslie Wheeler had planned to tent camp, but secured one of the modest, but heated camping cabins instead. Both ended up being very wise decisions as the wind really howled through the night and we woke up to temperatures in the upper 20's.



Friday morning was beautiful and sunny. We headed out to the north right across the highway from the campground. FR101 is a good gravel road that ends up as a 4WD road as it progresses into the forest. As the road climbed on the North ridge of the Conejos canyon it was snow covered and the aspens were full of gold and orange color. I was afraid that all the leaves would have been on the ground with the strong winds the previous night. The snow caused a couple of slippery climbs, but was not a very big hindrance to travel, just

making it a little more fun. By the time we got above 10,000 ft. elevation, no vehicles had been ahead of us since the snow and it was getting deeper, making it hard to tell where the road bed was below. Then, I hit some drifted snow deep enough to contact the front differential without enough momentum to break through. After a couple more hits, I was able to get through the drift providing for some excitement for my girls. Once Mathew plowed through with his lower slung stock X-terra, everyone got through the drift with no issues. We pressed on making a loop through the Big Meadows area of the Fox Creek drainage. At the completion of this loop, we would cross the same deep snow drift on the opposite side of the fence. Knowing what happened the first time, I carried enough momentum to traverse the drift on the first try as did the majority of the group. As we backtracked on FR101, we made a stop along the edge of the Conejos canyon providing a spectacular vista of the colorful trees below.



A loop to the south was the choice for Saturday following the edge of Toltec Gorge to Osier, the midpoint stop for the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad. Given this was the first day of elk rifle season, I figured there would be fewer active hunters along the railroad route than other parts of the forest. We started out heading east on HWY 17 for a couple of miles near the end of Los Mogotes mesa where we crossed the Conejos river. A high clearance road was found to climb out of the valley which provided a broad view of the Sangre de Cristo range to the east. All the way from the freshly snow-covered Mt. Blanca down to the mountains near Taos NM could be seen. Just as we crossed the state line into New Mexico, we met up with the train tracks at Big Horn siding and wry.

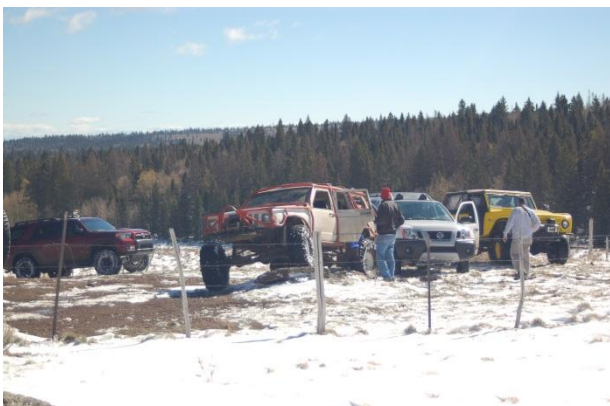


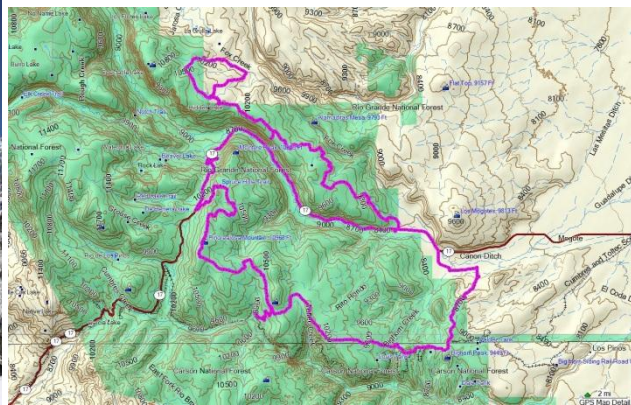
This is the first spot from Antonito where the train could be turned around. From there, we paralleled the tracks back to the west headed toward Osier. Most of the big aspen groves in this area had already lost all their leaves. Before arriving at Osier for lunch, we made a stop to have a bit of a view down into the Toltec Gorge. We all hung out at Osier until the trains arrived and the kids placed some pennies on the track for the train to flatten. We backtracked a short distance on FR103 to FR107 to continue the loop. The hunters were out in force in this area and we only seemed to impede

a couple of them as they were driving in the opposite direction. We found a dry spot where we stopped for a 10-100 and to check out the frosted trees. As we worked up to the top of the 10984 ft. Pinorealosa Mountain, the snow got deeper and the amounts of tracks ahead of us were fewer. The snow bashing began! Although there was one set of tracks that had been ahead of us, they would leave the road quite often to avoid the deeper snow. Given that I had 10 vehicles following me, I tried to stick to the actual road as much as possible in effort to avoid further proliferation of off-trail tracks. The trouble with snow drifts, they can fill holes making for the appearance of a smooth, flat

route. I quickly fell victim to such a hole that completely swallowed my 35" passenger side tires. I called on the radio for assistance and at least Leon and Wolfie quickly got stuck too. Guest Devin Cannady took pleasure in rescuing Leon's Bronco from the snow with his YJ after following him all day having to look at the sticker on the Yellow Bronco's tailgate reading "I Love Jeeps, They Taste Like Chicken". Glenn Vialpando was able to get around me and provide anchor for my winch with his new 4Runner. Glenn would have to repeat this twice more in spots that I stopped short of making it through drifts. The rest of the group seemed to make it right through after I had made tracks on the road. After all of the snow bashing fun and excitement, we all were happy to rejoin the pavement on HWY 17 at Spruce Hole. Any more snow bashing would have been more work than fun. The highway drive back to the campground was beautiful with aspens in full color. What a great day!

The snow ended up being a pleasant surprise. It added just enough challenge to a normally very easy drive. The snow also revealed how alive the forest is leaving many animal tracks where no evidence is usually found. The white of the snow against evergreens and golden and orange aspens provided quite spectacular scenery. This was a truly unique experience which will most likely never be repeated.

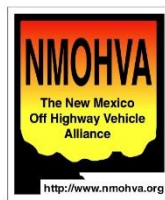




NM4W Officers

President Cliff Meier 281-3704 pr@nm4w.org	Vice-President Leon Duggar 235-8988 vp@nm4w.org	Secretary Joan Wolf 856-8539 se@nm4w.org
Treasurer Dixon Patrick 271-9133 tr@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Jennifer Chapin 305-333-3375 pc@nm4w.org	Historian Frank G. Whiston 280-7922 hi@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Position Open de@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, wa@nm4w.org
Newsletter editor, Phil Rodacy, ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



December 1, 2013

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2013

by Joan Wolf



The meeting was held on November 14 at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church and called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Cliff Meier.

GUESTS: Bill and Lisa Bonahoom (XJ), Devin Cannady, Alan Dooley, Bill and Chris Dressler (Wrangler), Robert Gill (2009 Wrangler), NaDeen Jackson (2005 Wrangler), Paul Lucero (Ford truck), Dave Plaster, John Rabenius, Andy Townes (Rubicon), and Richard Zarobsky.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Richard Brooks, Jennifer Chapin, Leon Duggar, Jennifer Jacobs, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Dixon Patrick, Bob & Sandy Powell, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, and Tahoe Zahn.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf: Motion carried to approve October minutes and dispense with reading.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick: Balance of \$2,675.55 was reported and accepted.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs

PAST EVENTS:

October 10-13 – Conejos River Fall Colors Run – Frank G. Whiston: The snow added to the beauty of the high mountain country and challenges on the trails. Good turnout of 11 vehicles.

October 25-27 – SWFWDA Fall Quarterly Meeting, Mason TX. The Katemcy Rocks (K-2) 4WD ranch offered obstacles on par with the Chile Challenge area. The business meeting was attended by Bob Norton and two officer positions were filled. However, due to miscommunication, some Board members participated in a teleconference that Bob and others were not aware of. The actions will have to be redone.

November 9 – 1st Annual Flash Dash. Over \$4,000 was raised for Wounded Warriors at this fundraiser held in the Rio Puerco. There were approximately 135 4WD vehicles of various types; 8-10 were from NM4W.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 15 – GenRight Off Road National 4WD night at Uptown Sports Bar, Albuquerque. The vendor takes their show to 14 cities a year. NM4W member Mark Berglund is the local GenRight representative.

November 23 – Roadrunner Food Drive. This was NM4W's sixth annual appearance at the Food Drive. KOB-TV (Channel 4) does a live broadcast and NM4W vehicles are usually spotlighted.

November 24 (tentative) Manzano Mountains – Cliff Meier: Easy, scenic run. Watch website and email for details.

December 7 – Monticello Canyon – Jack Dickey. Many water crossings. Easy trail through a steep-walled canyon. Details are on the club website.

December 7 – Toys for Tots 5th Annual Run by New Mexico Off Road. Join others for a Rio Puerco run followed by toy delivery.

December 14 – Meeting/Potluck/Christmas Party at the home of Dixon & Zelda Patrick. Club will provide meat. Bring a dish to share and, if interested, a \$15 gift for the gift swap.

Christmas Tree Run—need a volunteer Trail Leader

2014 EVENTS:

May 1-3 – Hole in the Rock UT – Keith Jurey. Camp on the trail for two nights. Somewhat difficult trail (lockers needed). Historic and scenic. Spare gasoline recommended.

May 8-15 – Moab & Green River UT – Cliff & Jeanne Meier. Run Moab for 3 days, then Green River for 3-5 days, depending on interest. Moab RV parks fill up fast, but you can reserve now.

July 10-12 – Salida CO – Jennifer Chapin and Jennifer Jacobs. The club chose Chalk Creek Campground, Nathrop CO, as the event site. Trail Leader Cliff Meier will organize runs of various difficulty. Jennifer J is lining up a local caterer to provide a dinner in the \$15 per person range. Online registration begins 3/1/14. This will serve as the SWFWDA Summer Quarterly Meeting, if applicable.

July 27-Aug. 2 – All-4-Fun, Silverton, CO. Hosted by Mile-Hi Jeep Club.

Sept. 6-7 – Mt. Blanca – Keith Jurey will lead.

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge. This will be the SWFWDA Fall Quarterly Meeting, if applicable.

**LEAD A RUN
ANY WHERE, ANY TIME**

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar: Sheriff Leon fined himself, Wolfie, and Frank for getting stuck in snow and/or getting stuck while attempting to render aid to others stuck in snow at Conejos; \$0.25 per infraction. Leon explained the fine and points system for the newcomers.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – This important position is vacant.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin: Club merchandise was available. Jennifer sold 50/50 raffle tickets.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston: Picasa is now called Google Photos but the old address works. Please keep posting your photos.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy: Don enhanced the Officers section to give appointed position holders more privileges.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy: Nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **2014 Summer Quarterly.** See Upcoming Events.
- **4X4 101 Class.** Bob Provance was unable to attend tonight's meeting so no report.
- **4WD Hardware Promotion "Club Rewards".** Frank G. Whiston explained this optional-for-members program offered by 4WD Hardware. The NM4W "payback" portion to date is approximately \$73. Frank will research which club will benefit if someone belongs to more than one club.
- **SWFWDA Status.** Jeanne Meier reported that a quorum participated in the October 20 teleconference. However, due to a communication snafu, some members met at the Quarterly meeting in Texas and elected two officers. That action will have to be redone. The Association is in need of officers and participation. President David Teague's term expires next year, though he would like someone to assume the office sooner. NM4W does not need to "provide" another officer since the bylaws allow two officers per club. Currently, Jeanne Meier serves as Membership Secretary and Jennifer Chapin is Webmaster. Bob Norton is the longtime editor of the 4Wheel Drive Lines newsletter.

A letter with more details was mailed to 360 SWFWDA members on November 14. President David Teague requests comments be made to the club representative (Bob Norton in our case) prior to the teleconference in the January/February timeframe.

Cliff noted that NM4W overlooked electing a SWFWDA delegate during July elections. To rectify that, Bob Norton was elected as Delegate and Jennifer Chapin as Alternate Delegate.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Donations.** Members approved:
 1. \$200 donation to the church (Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church) for use of the meeting room at no charge.
 2. \$200 donation to the Roadrunner Food Bank.
 3. \$150 for meat for the Christmas party.
- **Rio Puerco and State Land Trust.** Jeff Boggs recently discussed the permit process with the host of an off road event held at Rio Puerco. Jeff was told that no permits were required

because the event site was all on NM State Trust Land. In addition, the City of Rio Rancho's position is that everything east of the power lines (the airdown area) is City of RR property and closed to off road use. In years past, NM4W's position was that Rio Puerco use was inappropriate because it was private land (King Ranch and Benavides Ranch). Jeff will talk directly to State Land Trust staff for clarification.

- **NMOHVA calendars.** NMOHVA (New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance) is designing a 2014 calendar and selling ad space to defray printing costs. Since NM4W donates the club share of the 50/50 raffle to NMOHVA, Frank G. Whiston proposed that NM4W direct \$100 of that money for calendar ad space. Motion passed.
- **New Members.** Devin Cannady and Bill & Lisa Bonahoom were voted in. Welcome!

Cliff thanked Jennifer Chapin for hosting the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 8:32 pm

Raffle Winner: Mark Wolf won \$37.50 in the 50/50 raffle.

Hosts for Winter meetings

January – Jeanne & Cliff Meier
February – Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell
March – Leon & Marcia Duggar
April – Phil & Ilene Rodacy

*Check out the calendar on the web site —
it is continually updated and has all of the contact
information you need!*

**Keep PUBLIC lands open
to the PUBLIC**



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

I would like to take a moment to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a merry Christmas! It's that time of year when we need to reflect on the many gifts we have received. Thanks to everyone who participated in the Road Runner's Holiday Food Drive. This was a great way to give back to our community.

Everyone in the club should have received a letter explaining the planned actions to determine if there is enough interest in continuing the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association (SWFWDA); At the November meeting we officially elected Bob Norton as our club delegate to SWFWDA and Jennifer Chaplin as our alternate delegate. They will our club's representative that will vote on the Association's business which will include if it continues. Please give them your comments as the letter requests.

The Cibola National Forest has released the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Travel management Plan for the Magdalena Ranger District. This is the last remaining Ranger District in the state to release the NEPA document for Travel Management. The deadline for comments submission is midnight Monday, December 23rd. See the club website for more details. The latest update on the NMOVHA's lawsuit is also available on the website. These are important happenings that will affect our sport. Please take the time to review them.

The club continues to have the important Environmental Director position unfilled. This is an important position and needs to be filled as soon as possible. Please contact me if you are interested.

That's about all for now; see everyone at the Christmas party on December 14th.



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs Open Position

The club needs a volunteer to fill the Environmental Affairs Director position. This is an important position with the law suit and other activity with the Forest Service/BLM going on. This is an excellent chance to give back to the club. Please consider volunteering.

We desperately need to fill this critical position. If you don't have time to take on this position by yourself, see if you can find someone to "job-share".

If you are interested contact Cliff, sarmeier@yahoo.com, 281-3704 or at the meeting.



Baby, Its Cold Outside! **By Phil Rodacy**

That's right! Its cold outside, and likely to get colder! That's why it's the perfect time to go to the member's only website and place your orders for New Mexico 4-Wheelers Crew Neck Sweatshirts. They're available in Black, Navy Blue, Red, Grey, or Pink and sizes Small through XXX Large. Order now and pay by January 14.



1st Annual Flash Dash **November 9, 2013** **By Jeff Boggs**

On November 9th, 2013, one hundred plus 4x4's all showed up at the end of Southern in Rio Rancho, all at the same time. And this was no coincidence. We were there to show our support for the "Wounded Warrior Project". This event was the "1st Annual Flash Dash", put together by "Flash Gear", a local company that sells accessories for 4x4's.

All proceeds from this event went to the Wounded Warrior Project. The WWP is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors. Thousands of wounded warriors and caregivers receive support each year through WWP programs and

services designed to nurture the mind and body, and encourage economic empowerment and engagement.

Each rig paid \$25.00 to ride on a run down into the beautiful Rio Puerco valley. Lunch was also included; brisket sandwiches, chips, beans, and soft drinks. Raffle tickets were sold at \$5.00 for a drawing that afternoon, for many great prizes. The lunch was served up by several of the "Twin Peaks" calendar girls, dressed up in Camo outfits.



A woman with the WWP gave an opening speech to tell the crowd about the WWP and to thank all who showed up. The organizers were really excited to see many more 4x4's than they had expected. 95 vehicles were registered when we pulled out to do our ride, but more rigs were still pulling into the area. UTV's showed up, too.

It was pretty cool to see 100 4x4's, new and old, lined up and rolling up the sand dune and out the narrow ridge road. We were led down toward the "play areas" and everybody broke up into groups to try their own lines up the sandstone rocks and ledges. Everywhere you looked there were Jeeps, Toyotas, Hummers, buggies, Chevys, Fords, and even a full size military truck, sporting double rear axles, climbing up and over the landscape.



Everybody seemed to be having a great time. Popular areas like "Dos Amigos", Moon Rocks", the "Gauntlet", Snoopy Rock, The "Double Water Fall", and other no name areas were used.

Soon, it was time to head back to the staging area for lunch. Amazing "Powdrell's brisket!!!!. Everybody stood around eating and visiting, enjoying a wonderful fall day in New Mexico.



The raffle was held about 3:00 PM. This event went off really well and we are looking forward to the 2nd annual Flash Dash. It should be even bigger next year.

Thanks to all, and what a great cause for the OHV community to support.

NM4W Officers

President Cliff Meier 281-3704 pr@nm4w.org	Vice-President Leon Duggar 235-8988 vp@nm4w.org	Secretary Joan Wolf 856-8539 se@nm4w.org
Treasurer Dixon Patrick 271-9133 tr@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Jennifer Chapin 305-333-3375 pc@nm4w.org	Historian Frank G. Whiston 280-7922 hi@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Position Open de@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, wa@nm4w.org
Newsletter editor, Phil Rodacy, ed@nm4w.org

