



Trail Tales



November 1, 2024

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org



Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2024

By Shirley Godfrey

The meeting was held at North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

President Jack Dickey called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Tracy Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Cathy Dickey, Jack Dickey, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, Jason Haynes, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, Jennifer Myers, Myron Myers, Jack Nutter, Jonathan Rivera, Don Roy, Richard Steele, Frank Whiston, William Zobel

GUESTS ATTENDING: Jp Bowdoin, Bob Brazell, Doug Elkins, Georgia Kimbell

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Jeff Boggs -

Jeff explained the 5 points to becoming a club member and explained the transgression fines. There were no transgression fines levied.

A motion was made and seconded to make Cliff and Jeanne Meier to Honorary Members. Motion was approved by a majority of members present with discussion. Cliff and Jeanne both stated there were other members of the club just as worthy to be an Honorary Member.

SECRETARY’S REPORT – Shirley Godfrey

Meeting minutes - A motion was made and seconded to approve the September minutes as published in the September newsletter. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Richard Steele

Rich provided current balances for both checking and saving accounts. A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurers’ report. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion.

Rich has been working on the 501C7 application and anticipates completing it by the end of the year.

TRIP CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Mary Turpin is currently in Denver for the Red Cross certification training. Jack Dickey provided the Trip Chair report for Mary.

Past Trips

September 21, Peralta Ridge/Ponderosa/East Jemez, Jeff Grenier gave the report for Mary

September 22, Yotas/Jeeps and Coffee, no report

October 4-7, Cooke's Canyon, Massacre Canyon, Overnight Trip, David Ham, no report

October 5, Jemez to Espanola/Hoodoos and Calderas, Jeff Grenier reported the run had 3 vehicles and the roads were clear.

Upcoming Events and Trips

Please check the calendar for the current upcoming events and trips

November 1-4, T or C Mine Sites Exploratory, Jeff Boggs, 20 vehicles RIDE FULL

November 2, Chain of Crater/Hole in the Wall, Jeff Grenier

November 14, Thursday, Regular NM4W Meeting, 6:30pm North Domino Baca Multi-Generational Center

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT -

Bill Zobel: I am working on obtaining grants possibly from MNOVA and Rugged Ridge.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT – Cathy Dickey – 50/50 tickets available. The new credit card machine can now be used to purchase club swag. Additional items for tonight's 50/50 raffle, ammo cans.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank Whiston—please submit photo's to Frank to add to the Gallery.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT and NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT—Don Roy. Don is considering sending out an email to the membership asking for articles for the newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS:

OHV Handbook - Cathy Dickey and Jason Haynes is working on the OHV handbook. Cathy would like to get the maps services added to it. Frank Whiston offered to assist.

CPR Class – The Club has 15 people signed up for the CPR class to be held October 26, 2024. ARC has a course limit of 12 participants. The class will need to be split to two sessions in order to meet the participant limit. Mary Turpin was not at the meeting to provide input regarding an additional class and cost of instruction. A motion was made and seconded to approve an additional \$500.00 funding for an additional CPR class. There was much critical discussion about the number of participants, course providers, and amount of funding. Jack Dickey noted that at this late date, it would be difficult to change providers and that the membership had approved the CPR course a few months prior. After additional discussion the original motion was withdrawn. Another motion was made and seconded to approve an additional \$2,000.00 for upto 12 members to attend an additional CPR class. During subsequent discussion, it was noted that this amount was equal to that initially approved. The motion was approved by a majority of members present with a few members dissenting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The club now has business cards to hand out. As previously approved by the membership, each member present at the meeting was provided with two club stickers.

50/50 raffle - \$30 split, winner, Jennifer Myers. Bob Brazell provide two ammo cans for raffle. After the 50/50 raffle, more tickets were drawn and Tracy Bakewell won both ammo cans. Both ammo cans were won by Tracy Bakewell

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion. Meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.



President's Report

By Jack Dickey

It's the People!

Another Chile Challenge is now part of my many memories of rock crawling. This year there was a bittersweet moment. Long-time participant and trail leader, Todd Steele (re-Todd) passed away from a medical emergency several weeks before this year's event. Las Cruces Four-Wheel Drive Club had a banner at the pavilion commemorating his legacy. Todd will be remembered for his good cheer and two Great Danes that he walked around camp morning and evening. Life in camp was different not having Todd around.

Kayla Malakowsky, all of the volunteers, and Las Cruces Four-Wheel Drive Club did an exceptional job organizing and producing this year's Chile Challenge. There were well over 200 registered drivers. Kayla spent mornings and evenings at the registration trailer checking in participants and selling merchandise. She managed to get out and wheel a few hard trails in her Jeep and also emceed the raffle! Everyone, staff and participant, had a smile and fun attitude. The trail leaders that I wheeled with: Jacob Benevidez and Ernie Armijo on Godzilla/Destroya, Jason ? and Jessie James on War axe Jr/Geronimo and Christian Brieske on Can Opener/Warpath were top notch.

Jacob and Ernie spotted drivers when needed and jumped in to help with a quick trail fix on my buggy when an axle u-joint broke on Destroya. Ernie pulled my buggy up an escape route and followed us back to Area 51 staging while Jacob finished the trail with the rest of the group. Ernie turned around and went back to be sure Jacob and the group were ok.

Jason and Jessie worked hard to keep a large, diverse group of drivers and rigs moving. Both were infectious with their good-time outlooks. Jason helped with a couple of trail repairs and Jessie kept a couple of well-built/full body Toyota Tacomas moving at the back of the pack. Both were helpful with spotting, which just about every driver needed at some point along the trails.

Christian, despite a harsh knee injury from an unfortunate misstep a few days earlier, managed to provide expert spotting and recovery advice as well as hooking up winch lines throughout the day. One should note that Christian drove and Ernie spotted to a first-place western division and second place national finishes in W.E. Rock competition this year!. It's inspirational that these two put in countless hours traveling and competing, but still supported Chile Challenge.

Wednesday evening, while preparing to swap out the axle shafts with the broken u-joint, I realized that I had not put a hub-nut socket in my tool kit. So, I set out across camp to find one. First, I found Leeland, who as a young wheeler more than once was a tail-gunner for me when I led trails at Chile Challenge. He didn't have what I needed, but suggested we find Ben Hutchison. He joined me on my quest. Soon we found Ben. Ben said he would ask around. A moment later I bumped into Matt Wheeler, a long-time wheeling friend from Los Alamos. Matt had the socket I needed along with snap ring pliers, which I had also forgot. Upon picking up Matt's tools, Ben texted me that he had found three sockets! It just goes to show that at Chile Challenge, if you need help, all you have to do is ask.

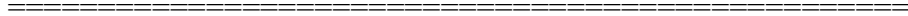
Mary Turpin deserves a big thanks for organizing NM4W folks to assist NMOHVA with the ice cream social Thursday evening. Unfortunately, Cathy and I weren't able to help as we got off the trail late and I was beat from wrenching on our buggy the evening before.

Friday evening was a RC crawler challenge at the pavilion. Jacob Benevidez and his boys set up a rock crawling course for kids young and old (including me) to test their RC crawler rigs and driving skills. Jacob and his wife Angela were the judges for the friendly completion. I'm not sure who had more fun, the participants or Angela who was so full of joy and energy!

While wheeling fantastic trails and seeing awesome rigs in action made great memories, it's the people that I will remember most from Chile Challenge 2024!

Happy Trails,
Jack Dickey

Jack Dickey





NMOHVA Ice Cream Social @ 2024 Chile Challenge

By Frank Whiston

Volunteers from the New Mexico 4-Wheelers served up ice cream for the participants of the 2024 Chile Challenge at Caballo Lake State Park last month. Club volunteers included Helen Breton, David “Mac” McDaniel (from Denver/MHJC), Joe Breton, Aidan Caskey, and Mary Turpin. We are looking forward to partnering with NMOHVA in the future to access grant money for trail

improvements that are out of reach for our club by itself, so it is nice that our members were able to help this organization out while attending the event.



The New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance (NMOHVA) has been a long standing sponsor for funding the social at this event. NMOHVA is a statewide nonprofit alliance of motorized recreation enthusiasts and organizations. Our mission is to promote, protect, and preserve responsible off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation through education and advocacy.

Responsible OHV recreation has a legitimate place on public land, alongside all the other reasons people seek outdoor recreation. We, the members of NMOHVA, are conservationists and environmentalists. We are hikers and bikers, equestrians, hunters and anglers, bird watchers and wildlife photographers and history buffs. We enjoy driving and riding for the places it takes us and the pleasure it brings us. We treasure our public lands for all these reasons and we want to ensure that public land recreation includes preserving access for OHVs, where appropriate, for future generations.

NMOHVA is committed to creating new motorized recreation opportunities in New Mexico. NMOHVA supports local groups and individuals working with city, state, and federal land managers and agencies by developing projects, participating in grant programs, and acting as a fiduciary agent where needed.





American Red Cross Adult/Child/Pediatric CPR Class

by Mary Turpin



On Saturday October 26th, NM4Wers attended an American Red Cross Adult/Child/Pediatric CPR class.

A few months ago, before becoming a Club Officer myself, I was bored one day and decided to check out the "What Training Should NM4W Offer?" Poll on the Club Calendar. I noticed several people



interested in both CPR and Wilderness First Aid and decided they were a Club interest I could tackle pulling together.



I reached out to Club Officers at that time, and they were overwhelmingly in support of the idea. Knowing the cost of these courses, I was hopeful only that the Club might subsidize a small portion of the cost for Members. To my surprise and delight, the NM4W Board came through with full

importance to safety as we run trails all over the place and our need for self-reliance as we do that.

sponsorship of the event, knowing the

Jack Dickey was a huge help monitoring the coordination and Rich Steele has helped shepherd the financial side of things. A huge thank you to both of them!





Despite a slow start due to an access issue and needing a key to the building, the class went off without a hitch. It was fun to see everyone in a different setting and to see the dedication to safety we all bring to our sport.

We had a great Instructor who fielded all sorts of questions and helped guide skills practice.

Attendees included Yi-Jiun & Ronnie Caton, Brian Glendening, Ric Henry, Linda & Patrick Dobson, Glenn Boudreaux, Rich Steele, William Crawley, Michael Hoffman, Ben & Andrea Webb, and Jason Haynes. Don Roy stopped by to get some pictures.

Part 2 of this series will be in March 2025. NM4W will be hosting American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid. I have renewed my own ARC First Aid Instructor certification and will be providing this course for

the Club. Details are on the calendar.

Happy Trails!

☺Mary





Chile Challenge 2024 by Mary Turpin

Chile Challenge is an annual event hosted by the Las Cruces 4WD Club at Caballo Lake State Park, just south of Truth or Consequences, NM. Chile Challenge has been going for 33 years and this year it went from Wednesday October 16th – Saturday October 19th. It's been 20 years since I've been to CC, and back then it was still hosted down in Las Cruces.

My crew this year included me, David "Mac" McDaniel, and Aidan Caskey. Mac is a member of Mile High Jeep Club in Denver, CO and has an '03 TJ. Aidan is an applicant to NM4W and is the godson of my husband, Paul, who passed away in late 2021. Aidan has Paul's '95 YJ. We all caravanned down to CC on Tuesday.



My RV & '24 JL, Mac's truck and '03 TJ, Aidan's mom's truck and '95 YJ.

We camped and had beautiful views of the New Mexico desert surrounding us. Fall was upon us which meant cool mornings and evenings balanced with warm, sunny days.



2024 CHILE CHALLENGE			
Trail Rating	Stage	Depart	GMRS
<i>WEDNESDAY</i>			
(2) EL RIO GRANDE	10	9:00	19
(3) PALOMAS GAP	7	9:05	21
(5) SCRATCH	4	8:20	3
(5) THE ODYSSEY	3	8:15	20
(6) APACHE CANYON*(DAM)	1	8:00	4
(6) BATMAN*(DAM)	2	8:10	5
(6) LOST BOYS	5	8:25	15
(6) SIDEWINDER	6	8:30	1
(8) SHORTCUT/LAST CHANCE	7	8:35	2
(8) GODZILLA	8	8:40	6
(8) BRANDON'S BOULDERS	9	8:50	7
<i>THURSDAY</i>			
(3) REDHOUSE MTN LOOP	3	9:00	19
(4) RINCON TO SPARKYS	2	8:55	21
(5) RATTLER	1	8:50	3
(6) BATMAN* (DAM)	1	8:00	5
(7) SIDEWINDER	6	8:25	1
(7) BACKSTAGE PASS	7	8:30	2
(7+) GREEN/CABIN	8	8:35	4
(7) OL SKOOL/BACK TO SKOOL	9	8:40	6
(7+) CRYSTAL CANYON	10	8:45	7
(9) BACKSTAGE EXTREME	3	8:10	15
(8) GODZILLA	4	8:15	17
(9) MINEFIELD/BONE	5	8:20	18
(9) GERONIMO	2	8:05	20

Frequency Conversions for GMRS/FRS

(Ch1) 462.5625 (Ch2) 462.5875 (Ch3) 462.6125 (Ch4) 462.6375
 (Ch5) 462.6625 (Ch6) 462.6875 (Ch7) 462.7125 (Ch8) 467.5625
 (Ch9) 467.5875 (Ch10) 467.6125 (Ch11) 467.6375 (Ch12) 467.6625
 (Ch13) 467.6875 (Ch14) 467.7125 (Ch15) 462.5500 (Ch16) 462.5750
 (Ch17) 462.6000 (Ch18) 462.6250 (Ch19) 462.6500 (Ch20) 462.6750
 (Ch21) 462.7000 (Ch22) 462.7250

2024 CHILE CHALLENGE			
Trail Rating	Stage	Depart	GMRS
<i>Friday</i>			
(2) EL RIO GRANDE* (DAM)	1	8:00	15
(3) EL PEDREGAL	7	9:20	19
(5) THE ODYSSEY	4	9:05	17
(5) SCRATCH	6	9:15	1
(5) DESERT WANDERING	5	9:10	20
(6) APACHE CANYON* (DAM)	2	8:05	2
(7) OL SKOOL	1	8:50	3
(6) NARROWS	2	8:55	4
(7) BACKSTAGE PASS	3	9:00	5
(7+) GREEN/CABIN	10	8:45	6
(7+) CRYSTAL CANYON	9	8:40	7
(8) BRANDON'S BOULDERS	8	8:35	8
(9) FRAMETWISTER/BONE	7	8:30	9
(9) GERONIMO	4	8:15	10
(8) GODZILLA	6	8:25	11
(10) CAN OPNR/WARPATH*(DAM)	3	8:10	12
(11) WAR AXE*(DAM)	5	8:20	13
<i>SATURDAY</i>			
(3) PALOMAS GAP	5	9:10	21
(3) BOTTLE TREE LOOP	6	9:15	22
(4) RINCON TO SPARKYS	2	8:55	20
(4) ROBIN	3	9:00	1
(5) RATTLER	4	9:05	2
(6) BATMAN* (DAM)	3	8:10	3
(7) BACKSTAGE PASS	8	8:35	4
(7) OL SKOOL/BACK TO SKOOL	9	8:40	5
(7+) GREEN/CABIN	10	8:45	6
(7+) CRYSTAL CANYON	1	8:50	7
(8) BRANDON'S BOULDERS	4	8:15	15
(8) GODZILLA	5	8:20	17
(9) GERONIMO	1	8:00	18
(9) SHORTCUT/LAST CHANCE	6	8:25	8
(9) MINEFIELD/BONE	7	8:30	9
(10) CAN OPNR/WARPATH*(DAM)	2	8:05	19

All three of us ran Apache Canyon (Level 6) on Wednesday and Scratch Canyon/'Ol Skool (L7) on Thursday.

Mac headed home to Denver on Friday, while I ran Desert Wanderings (L5) and Aidan ran Green/Cabin (L7+).

Aidan and I tackled Crystal Canyon (L7+)/Sidewinder (L6) on Saturday.

LC4WDC did great job offering a blend of trail difficulties providing challenges when desired and "chillaxing" a bit more when wanted.



Camping with Jeeps! :-)



Frank Whiston got me one of the NM4W banners, while Jack & Cathy Dickey had the other one. It was awesome to be able to represent NM4Wheelers while down there! I had folks on trails who knew where I was camped because they had seen the banner – so lots of good advertising for us. 😊



My favorite runs of the week were 'Ol Skool (L7) and Crystal Canyon (L7+)/Sidewinder (L6). One major element on each of 'Ol Skool and Crystal Canyon gave me hardcore challenges and pushed my technical skills to their limits.

'Ol Skool has a section of uphill boulder garden that is maybe 50 yards long which is the toughest obstacle on the trail. It twists and winds through giant boulders and tight turns. A few folks on 40"+ tires had a tough time getting through due to their width.



One of the easy parts of the trail.

Aidan, Mac, and I were among the smaller rigs on the run, with many rigs being more buggy-ish. We definitely had our work cut out for us!

I continue to experience a decidedly strange mixture of fear and excitement when looking at obstacles like that. I stood looking up at that boulder garden thinking to myself, “You crazy nut, you woke up today and thought this would be a fun thing to do?!? WTH were you thinking???” A moment or two later, my mind moved on to thinking, “Ok, woman, time to man up and get this done – you got yourself into this situation, you gotta get yourself out of it!” There’s a whole lot of self-confidence and pride that comes from conquering crazy obstacles.



We had fabulous LC4WDC Trail Leaders and spotters on ‘Ol Skool – they helped make it a great day! Sadly, because my brain went into trauma mode prior to tackling the boulder garden, I didn’t manage to hand off my phone to anyone to get pictures or videos. Humorously, while I was maneuvering through it, I heard someone shout, “OMG, we should’ve gotten that on video!!!” :-P



Access to Crystal Canyon meant going through a tunnel under the highway. :-)



Aidan, with his girlfriend, Aubrey, and their 3 m-o blue heeler puppy, Ranger.



Crystal Canyon #1



Crystal Canyon #2



Crystal Canyon #3



Crystal Canyon #4

Crystal Canyon gave me the thrill of making it up the single hardest obstacle I've ever tackled. Right at the beginning of the trail, you find the element that gives Crystal Canyon, the + part of its 7+ rating. Essentially, a 2-story series of waterfall ledges, with boulders jutting out and tight, wonky turns throwing you seriously off-camber. There's no bypass – once you're on the trail, you're committed. By the end of that obstacle, I was pretty sure I *should be* committed, LOL.

Included is a series of clips from videos posted in the CC 2024 Gallery and on my Profile page. These are from the first couple of ledges. I got high-centered on a rock under the driver's seat and had to use both my winch and the Trail Leader's winch, in combination, to get unstuck.

That was a moment of chaos in my brain like I was patting my head and rubbing my stomach at the same time, especially being a manual transmission. Managing the clutch, gas, and brake while simultaneously operating the winch and watching tire placement nearly fried my brain. It was the first time I've managed this particular situation, and it definitely pushed my technical skills to a new level.

In one video, you'll hear one of my mantras for life as a whole – "Always forwards, never back." For me, there's a lot of off-roading that carries over into my everyday life. I find myself facing some crazy challenge, and then must stop and analyze the situation, finding the various options or possibilities to get over it or through it. Occasionally, a trail will have a bypass that makes it easy to skirt the hardest elements. Sometimes there's no way around the big, ugly thing and I've got to find a way to make it through.

On a trail, I walk the obstacle, talk to others about the lines they might take, watch others who go before me, visualize my lines, and contemplate the abilities and limitations of my rig. Then I take a deep breath and give it a go.

Sometimes I make it on my own. Sometimes I get winched. In the end, I always make it through.

In wheeling, I've made it through Holy Cross, Iron Chest, 'Ol Skool, and Crystal Canyon. In life, I've survived Paul's suicide. I know now that I can make it through anything I set my mind to. #BringItOn



Crystal Canyon #5



Crystal Canyon #6



Crystal Canyon #7



Crystal Canyon #8

I want to give a huge shout out to the men I run trails with who honor me as a capable, woman 4-Wheeler. 30+ years ago, when I started in this sport, I was a total unicorn. Women usually only rode in the passenger seat, and very rarely drove. In my first four Jeeps, I shared the driver's seat with a husband. For years, I was often the only woman driver. On any run anywhere.

Even now, there aren't many of us. I recently joined Mile High Jeep Club, in Denver, as an Associate Member. For now, I am in Patrol 2, the same Patrol as my Sponsor. Ultimately, I hope to change to their "Rockette Patrol" – an all-woman group of off-roaders.

I dread to say that I ran into some unfortunate comments on one of my Chile Challenge runs. Without knowing anything about me, a guy made a comment about people who go out and buy brand new Jeeps just so they can call themselves off-roaders, then turned to look directly at me and asked who had the newest rig on that day's run. Honestly, I nearly punched him in the face. That was my L5 run.

The days I run L7's and L8's, I never hear those things. The harder the run I tackle, the more I am honored as a legitimate 4-Wheeler in my own right. On 'Ol Skool and Crystal Canyon, as on my hard runs at All 4 Fun this past summer, I received the same support and guidance as every man driving. I got the same encouragement and congratulations for my accomplishment. As a woman blazing a trail in an overwhelmingly male-dominated sport, that meant a lot.

I plan to keep building my skills and taking on harder challenges, in off-roading and in life. Happy Trails!

☺ Mary



Crystal Canyon #9

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

NM4W Officers and Staff

<p>President Jack Dickey pres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Membership Chair Jeff Boggs vpres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Sherley Godfrey sec@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Rich Steele treas@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chair Cathy Dickey prog@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank Whiston hist@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chair Mary Turpin trips@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs William Zobel envdir@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Membership Info Shirley Godfrey info@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Outside Org Mgr Frank Whiston outorg@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Web Admin Don Roy webadmin@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Newsletter Editor Don Roy editor@nm4w.org</p>

