



Trail Tales



December 1, 2024

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org



Meeting Minutes

November 14, 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 6:35 pm thanking Jeff Boggs for bringing in the refreshments.

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Cathy Arlowe, Jeff Boggs, Guy Conway, Cathy Dickey, Jack Dickey, Linda Dobson, Patrick Dobson, Doug Elkins, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Jack Nutter, Angel Pena, Jacob Rivera, Don Roy, Richard Steele, Mary Turpin, William Zobel.

GUESTS ATTENDING: Angel Pena, Doug Elkins, Jordan and Denise McMan.

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT - Jeff Boggs -

There was one online applicant since the last meeting, Karl Leigh. Two new guests for tonight’s meeting, Jordan and Denise McMan.

Jeff explained the 5 points to becoming a club member and explained the transgression fines. Mary Turpin paid a transgression fine from the T or C Mine Sites Exploratory outing.

Motions were made and seconded to make Ed and Lyn Kausch and Guy Conway to Honorary Members. Motions were approved by a majority of members present without discussion.

SECRETARY’S REPORT - Shirley Godfrey

Meeting minutes - A motion was made and seconded to approve the October minutes as published in the November newsletter. A 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.

There is a pending amount due regarding the CPR class. Jack Dicky announced we came in well below budget.

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

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Mary Turpin and Jeff Boggs reported -

Past Trips

October 16-19, Chille Challenge, Caballo State Park, LCFWDC – events for all levels of vehicles. Some very challenging. Volunteers from the NM 4-Wheelers served up ice cream for the participants of the Chille Challenge

November 1-4, T or C Mine Sites Exploratory, Jeff Boggs, - Saturday was a long day of driving. Sunday there was a mishap, and the drivers got to put their first aid skills into practice.

November 2, Chain of Crater/Hole in the Wall, Jeff Grenier – Jeff announced there was no hole in the wall and the driving was mainly over lava rock

Upcoming Events and Trips

Please check the calendar for the current upcoming events and trips

December 7, Toys for Tots Show & Shine, Jeff Boggs

December 14, Jemez Mountains Christmas Tree Run, Jeff Boggs

December 15, NM4W Christmas party & Meeting, Diego Serna, hosting

(Tentative) December 26-30, Cruces after Christmas, Mary Turpin

(Tentative) January 1, 2025, New Year's Day @ Gordy's Hill 1.0 Mary Turpin

January 9, 2025, NM4W Meeting 6:30 North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT - Bill Zobel -

Bill is working on obtaining grants possibly from MNOVA and Rugged Ridge and waiting on the 501C7 tax exemption.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT - Cathy Dickey – 50/50 tickets available. Hats, license plates and stickers are available and can be purchased with a credit card. 50/50 tickets sales are cash only.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT - Frank Whiston not in attendance. There are over 19,000 photos in the gallery!

WEBMASTER'S REPORT and NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT - Don Roy.

Approximately 400 videos have been submitted.

As of the publication of the November newsletter, there have been 15 been members and 66 visitors to the site.

OLD BUSINESS:

OHV Handbook - Cathy Dickey, Jason Haynes, and Frank Whiston are working on the OHV handbook. Cathy stated they need to get together and do a selection of rides. They would also like to add pictures from the website's gallery.

The American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid (pt2 of 2) will be taught by Mary Turpin. It will be held at Ric Henry's office, March 15 and March 16, 2025 (Saturday and Sunday).

NEW BUSINESS:

The Christmas party will be held at Diego & Lysle Serna's house, Sunday, December 15, at 3:00pm. There was a motion for the Club to provide \$500.00 for meat for the party. It was seconded and approved without discussion. Other pot luck items will be brought by the members.

50/50 raffle - \$66 split, winner, Jordan Mahon

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion. Meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.



TorC Weekend - Nov 1-4

By Jeff Boggs

A large group of NM4W members met up in T or C, NM on Friday. We had a group dinner on Friday evening at Johnny B's. A nice venue for a large group. Sat. morning we met in T or C and aired down, then crossed the Rio Grande just south of downtown.

Driving along on a dirt road that followed the river, we went south. Then turned east on the Palomas Gap road. This was built around 1900, by Chinese laborers as a toll road connecting the river and mining areas west to the railroad and mining areas to the east. It is steep, narrow, rugged, but in decent shape for an unmaintained road over 100 years old. We got to the top and found a nice lunch spot in an arroyo. From there we got to nice dirt roads that took us to the top of Caballo mountain. Radio towers at the top and a wonderful view, 360 degrees!!

Coming back down, we tried another route back to the top of the Gap road. This route had been used in the past, but it had been several years since any of us had driven it.

It was rugged, and we made some slow going and then it led into a dry, narrow arroyo. This section had some bigger rocks, and we needed to spot drivers and stack some rocks several places. It was getting too late in the day to safely return down Palomas Gap road before dark.

We decided to find a better road to the East, but as darkness closed in, we got lost. In the dark we found a county road, but it went through a locked gate area. Luckily, there was a guy there, who opened the gate and let us through. We got back to Hwy 51 and back to town by 8 pm. Time for some rest.

Sunday, we met up and again crossed the river and went out south of town into the western foothills of the Caballo mountains. We drove rugged, narrow dirt roads and checked out an interesting mine with old wooden structures.

We headed off south from there, but one of our group had an accident and injury. We helped get the driver out and EMS showed up. Local EMS did a great job. Our thanks to them. Everyone did a great job with this situation. Thanks for everyone's help. We hope for a speedy and complete recovery for our fellow club member.

We returned to town that afternoon and everyone started to prepare to return home. It was good to be with everyone and to see some old friends. This is a great area with lots to explore. Hope to check out this wonderful part of NM some more.



17 Vehicles

By Beth P. Steele

It was Day 2 of the NM 4-Wheelers club ride, another perfect day for the off-road vehicles and their riders to explore the less traveled roads of southern NM. Mostly Jeeps and a few pickup trucks and SUVs, the **17 vehicles** paraded their diverse builds, different sizes, and assorted ages, the variety also seen in their excitedly expectant occupants.

17 vehicles spreading in a long line on the high-desert dusty roads, wading carefully across the shallow Rio Grande, crawling through rough, rocky arroyos, traversing steadily up and down hills and alongside cliffs, searching out old-abandoned mines in the area.

17 vehicles, drivers and passengers basking in the beauty of vast vistas, relishing the freedom of open space, enjoying the silence of their own thoughts or joking and talking on the two-way radios, thrilled to be traveling those unused unpaved uneven uncivilized roads.

17 vehicles, each driver attracted by feelings of fun and competence, integrating with the highly engineered technology of the beloved off-road machine, relishing each moment of meeting large and small challenges presented by the distinctive geological landscapes of NM.

17 vehicles, navigating independently or with enthusiastic spotting by fellow wheelers, attentively maneuvering a multitude of easy and hard obstacles, like tricky boulders in the middle of roads, deep descents into dry gulleys, steep climbs straight up or via gravelly switchbacks, narrow routes squeezed between a sharp cliff and a vertical mountainside.

1 jeep, in the middle of the pack creeping along the narrow precipice, outside tires dropping into an unexpected fissure on the cliff, changing trajectory forever: rolling over in four full tumbles down, down, down, down into the deep ravine, ultimately resting flipped and upturned onto a big rock that pierced the roof, with broken jeep pieces and shattered glass scattered within and without.

16 vehicles, abruptly stopping, shocked riders seeing or hearing the accident, jumping into action: a driver watching it happen and vaulting out his flung-wide door, rushing down into the ravine; others instantly communicating the incident over two-way radios, several men and women scrambling down to the crash site below: club members, including 2 nurses, a trained EMT and a First Responder, automatically and cohesively working together using their various skills, seamlessly finding their place in one of two important groups: medical assistance and vehicle safety.

16 vehicles: members with rescue experience automatically teaming to support her bruised, curled and bleeding body, slowly and carefully assisting her out of the inverted torn-up treasured blue jeep, comforting her while she sat in shock, administering first aid and ice and taping a towel roll to support her neck, assessing her vital signs, her spine, her injuries. A friend calling 911 on a cell phone from the road, giving GPS coordinates for the

unnamed cliff, and becoming a relay to pass the ongoing medical updates to the emergency rescue dispatcher from the portable radio down in the ravine.

16 vehicles: additional members working together in essential ways: finding and caring for her small dog, checking for fuel leaks, locating a fire extinguisher, turning off power to the vehicle, safely securing the smashed jeep, gathering together what belongings could be found, taking photos for her for personal and insurance issues, trimming cactus and other overgrowth to make an easier exit path out of the ravine, moving vehicles to clear a route for emergency crew arrivals, and a local couple providing helpful resource information about vehicle recovery. All contributing to improving the dire situation, assisting in any way they could, including quietly, calmly and powerfully sending thoughts, visualizations, and/ or prayers for a positive outcome.

1 ATV arriving in 45 minutes with the Ambulance Crew: Paramedic Supervisor and 2 EMTs descending into the ravine to assess her medical status and extraction options, securing her safely on a stretcher, organizing the strong capable club members as lifters to carry the stretcher in stages up the chosen exit incline, loading her stretcher onto the back of the ATV where she could help hold herself on the ATV roll bar, and, within a half-hour, heading out on the ATV to the ambulance waiting on a nearby dirt road.

1 Helicopter requested by ATV Paramedic circling overhead in 20 minutes, prevented by swirling dust but finally finding a safe landing zone; taking off 45 minutes later with its highly trained trauma flight nurse providing vital care, pilot assessing fuel supply so flying south; inclement weather causing unpredicted grounding, a blessing in disguise that allowed a sooner admittance to a closer regional hospital in NM.

16 Vehicles, split into two groups by the perilous fissure, one heading forward while the other going back, both groups pondering, focusing on the broken jeep left behind and hoping for its owner's full recovery. Eventually joining together at the air-up spot by the river, a helpful debriefing for all about such an intense time met by the club members with immediate appropriate collaborative action.

16 Vehicles, beacons of light for humanity; people with a diversity of beliefs focusing on a common goal, merging together instantly and fluidly into a cooperative team, working diligently to provide whatever was needed to serve an injured colleague, each member contributing in some way. An inspiration for our divided country, a role model for the discordant world, right here on the high-desert dusty roads of NM.



***Thank you
from the bottom of my heart!***



I want to send the biggest, most heartfelt Thanks I can to the New Mexico 4 Wheelers community.

My world changed forever in a single second on Sunday November 3rd, and all of you were there to help me get through it.

You guys gave my life back to me and I will be forever grateful.

Whatever you need, whenever you need it – just let me know. I will be there for you any day, anytime.



Mary Turpin
NM4W Trip Chair

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

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