



# Trail Tales



March 1, 2025

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

[www.nm4w.org](http://www.nm4w.org)



## Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2025

By Shirley Godfrey

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

Vice President Jeff Boggs called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm thanking Mary Turpin for bringing in the refreshments.

**MEMBERS ATTENDING:** Jeff Boggs, Guy Conway, Cathy Dickey, Patrick Dobson, Doug Elkins, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, Ric Henry, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, Don Roy, Richard Steele, Mary Turpin, William Zobel

**GUESTS ATTENDING:** Bob Brazell, Aidan Caskey, Aimee Domines, Georgia Kimbell, Karl Leigh, Allison Martinez, Andrew Schwebke, Don Taylor, Josh Tucker, Anthony Weaver.

### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs

There have been three new applicates since the January meeting.

Jeff explained the 5 points system to become a club member and explained the transgression fines.

Guests attending introduced themselves and the vehicles they drive.

A motion was made and seconded to have Josh Tucker become a club member. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to have Aidan Caskey become a club member. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion.

Transgression fines – Jeff Boggs, one transgression

### SECRETARY'S REPORT - Shirley Godfrey

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

### TREASURER'S REPORT - Jack Dickey for Rich Steele

Current balances for both checking and saving accounts were provided.

Membership was paid to the Blue Ribbon Coalition. PO Box rent is due soon.

Don Roy reported the Club website renewal is coming up. The new amount is \$1,007.00 a year for a 3 year renewal. We have had the website with the same company for 9 years and Don is

going to negotiate for a lower rate.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion.

### **TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mary Turpin**

Mary reported there have been 5 rides since the beginning of the year with 65 vehicles attending.

#### **Past Trips**

1/11/25 – Gordy's Hill Ride Winter 2025, Jeff Boggs. 10 vehicles.

1/15-18/25 – Winter 4x4 Jamboree, Hurricane, UT, Associate members Joe and Helen Breton

1/26/25 – Cedro Peak Run, Jack Nutter. 18 vehicles

2/1/25 – South of Socorro/San Mateo Mountains, Will Crawley. 12 vehicles

2/8/25 – Magdalena Area Trails, Jeff Grenier. 13 vehicles

#### **Upcoming rides**

2/21/25 - Scouting Run, Arroyo del Coyote, Frank Whiston

3/1/25 - Ride with Norman Reedus Video Shoo, Cedro Peak Area, Frank Whiston. Waiting on USFS filming permit.

3/8/25 – Mesa Gallina/Cerro Alesna, Jeff Boggs

3/23/25 – La Ventana Mesa, Cliff Meier

Please check for additional upcoming rides on the website. Some of the rides are slated for members only. Get those points to go on the members only rides.

### **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT - Bill Zobel –**

Bill said the 25 Gordy's trail markers signs will cost approximately \$25,000.00

Bill Zobel has provided the draft application.

Jack Dickey obtained a letter of support from the Socorro BLM office.

Frank Whiston obtained letters of support from the Las Cruces 4WD Club and Blue Ribbon Coalition.

Mary Turpin obtained an Economic Impact letter of support from Roadrunner Travel Center in Lemitar, NM.

Frank Whiston made a map marking approximate location for signs and will be putting everything together for review by NMOHVA who will submit the application to NMDG&F.

**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. Still working on getting T-shirts that look good. Now on the 3<sup>rd</sup> company.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT - Frank Whiston – Unable to attend tonight's meeting.**

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

There has been a change for signing up for rides.

Phase 1 - There are now 4 areas – Driver, Passenger, Maybe and No.

Phase 2 (going live in a couple of days). If you indicate a MAYBE, there will be a date and time stamp associated with it. If the ride is full, it will show who is next in line if a driver cancels out of going on the run. The change will be done manually by the ride leader.

Phase 3 (in the future) will automatically put the MAYBE into the going category.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The annual picnic is tentatively scheduled for June 14. Reservations for the campsite do not open until March 15.

Think about becoming an officer for next year. Elections at the July meeting.

Hosts are needed August and September meetings. The Host can chose the date and time).

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There was a discussion regarding Gordy's Geo PDF map. The NMW4 GPS data is not importing into the mapping apps. Frank Whiston created a Georeferenced PDF map of the club's most popular trails at Gordy's Hill to retain E/M/H/X color coding for the trails, including a table showing trail names and ratings and displays the trail names. The PDF file is available to members of the club in our on-line documents and NM4W Gordy's Hill trails page. The map can also be downloaded from the Avenza Maps app store. Frank plans to give a demonstration of the map at the March meeting. At this time, the colors of the maps are not holding in place when switching between maps.

50/50 raffle - \$17 split, winner, Ed Kausche.

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion. Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

	<b>President's Report</b> <b>By Jack Dickey</b>
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There is no President's report this month.

	<b>Vice President's Soap Box</b> <b>By Jeff Boggs</b>
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There is no Vice-President's report this month.



## Director of Environmental Affairs

By William Zobel

### New Mexico Legislation Actions

The New Mexico Legislation is considering two bills related to off-highway motor vehicles during their current session.

#### New Mexico House Bill 371 – Off-Highway Motor Vehicle on Roads

The bill amends Section 66-3-1011 of the New Mexico Statutes to authorize local and county elected authorities to permit off-highway motor vehicles to operate on paved streets and highways within their political boundaries. This change allows for greater flexibility in local governance regarding the use of off-highway vehicles, which can now be regulated by local ordinances or resolutions. The bill specifies that these vehicles must meet certain safety requirements, including having appropriate lighting, brakes, mirrors, and insurance, as well as ensuring that operators possess valid driver's licenses and safety permits.

Additionally, the bill removes the previous requirement for state transportation commission approval for such operations, placing the authority solely in the hands of local or county elected officials. It also allows these authorities to establish separate speed limits and operating restrictions for off-highway vehicles on paved streets or highways. Overall, the legislation aims to enhance local control over off-highway vehicle operations while maintaining safety standards for their use on public roadways.

#### New Mexico House Bill 372 – Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Act Changes

The bill amends the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Act to enhance registration enforcement and address the evolving needs of off-highway motor vehicle users in New Mexico. Key changes include updated definitions for various types of off-highway vehicles, such as "recreational off-highway vehicle," which now specifies an unladen dry weight of under three thousand five hundred pounds and includes a requirement for a seventeen-character vehicle identification number. Additionally, the bill modifies the registration and user fee structure, eliminating the nonresident permit fees and streamlining the fee distribution process to better support the motor vehicle division and the trail safety fund.

Furthermore, the bill introduces new safety requirements for operators under the age of eighteen, including the necessity for eye protection and a safety helmet, as well as stipulations regarding supervision while operating off-highway vehicles. The department is tasked with developing a comprehensive safety training program and implementing strategies to minimize the impact of off-highway vehicle use on agricultural practices and the environment. The bill also emphasizes collaboration with various agencies to ensure effective enforcement and education regarding off-highway vehicle use, thereby promoting responsible operation and safety within the community.

## Current Status

On February 25, 2025, the House Transportation & Public Works Committee held a hearing on both bills. Both bills passed the committee and were referred to the House Government, Elections, and Indian Affairs Committee. At of this writing, the committee hearings have not been scheduled.

Two companion bills were introduced in the New Mexico Senate. SB472 is equivalent to HB371 and SB462 is equivalent to HB372. Both Senate bills were introduced on February 20, 2025, and referred to the Senate Tax, Business & Transportation Committee. At of this writing, a committee hearing has not been scheduled.

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## NM4W Officers and Staff

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