



June 1, 2025

# Trail Tales

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers



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



## Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2025

By Shirley Godfrey

The meeting was held at the home of Jack and Cathy Dickey in Los Lunas, New Mexico.

President Jack Dickey called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm. Jack thanked everyone for coming and said this was the best spread we've had.

**MEMBERS ATTENDING:** Jeff Boggs, Paula Boggs, JP Bowdoin, Susan Bowdoin, Cathy Dickey, Jack Dickey, Linda Dobson, Patrick Dobson, Doug Elkins, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Allison Martinez, Jennifer Myers, Myron Myers, Jack Nutter, Donna Pacheco, Jorge Pacheco, Lauri Rector, Jonathan Rivera, Beth P. Steele, Richard Steele, Mary Turpin, Glenn Vialpando, Rebagayle Vialpando, Anthony Weaver, Beth Whiston, Frank Whiston, William Zobel

**GUESTS ATTENDING:** Bruce Allen, Janet Crosby, Mike Crosby

### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – VP Jeff Boggs

Jeff explained the duties of the vice president.

One new guest this evening – Bruce Allen, introduced himself. New to 4 wheeling and has as a 2024 Gladiator Rubicon

There were 3 applicants with 5 points eligible to become members

Janet Crosby and Mike Crosby. A motion was made and seconded voting them in as new members.

Also voted in but not present were Erik Baldwin and Karl Leigh

Transgression fines – Due to bumpy roads, J.P. Bowden lost and found his pin in the road. After Green River Jonathan Rivera headed to Moab where he lost a tire and broke a sway bar.

Jacky Dickey mentioned that the fine (transgression) money is raffled off at the Christmas party.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT - Shirley Godfrey

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

### TREASURER'S REPORT - Rich Steele

Current balances for both checking and saving accounts were provided.

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 went over past and upcoming rides. Trip leaders/ride attendee gave a brief rundown of the ride.

#### Past Trip

- April 12, Mesa Gallina/ Cerro Alesna Exploratory Ride, - weather was nice but the roads were ruff.
- April 13, Withington Wilderness/San Mateo Mountains v1.1, Bill Zobel
- April 19, Jemez Maintenance and Trail Ride, Jeff Boggs – snowed all morning and then headed to Rio Rancho
- May 4 to May 11, Annual Green River Ride, Ed Kausche for Cliff Meier – good ride over all.
- May 4, Mt Taylor Ride on Sunday, Jeff Boggs – dusty and windy
- May 17, Go Topless Day 2025/Jemez Mountains, Jeff Boggs – list started with 29 and ended up with 17. Saw hardly anyone on the trails in the morning

#### **Upcoming Events and Trips**

- May 24, Don's Famous Mt. Taylor the Harder Way, Don Roy
- May 31, Jeff Rector Celebration of Life Car Show, Lauri Rector
- June 7, Jemez, Cruise the Forest Roads Ride 2025, Jeff Boggs
- June 14, Annual NM4W Picnic, Carolino Canyon Upper Picnic Area, Jack Dickey
- October 15-18, Chile Challenge 2025

There are a lot of upcoming rides. Please check the website for all the information. Some of the rides are slated for members only.

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

NMOHVA, waiting on the \$20,000.00 grant with Game & Fish and the Economic Impact Study.

BLM is being sued by Blue Ribbon Coalition for trail closures.

#### **PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT - Cathy Dickey –**

Cathy has a restock of t-shirts, hats and stickers. Business cards are available to pass out.

50/50 tickets available. Hats, license plates and stickers are can be purchased with a credit card. 50/50 tickets sales are cash only.

#### **HISTORIAN'S REPORT - Frank Whiston –**

Keep sharing your pictures. Very few pictures from the Green River trip. Currently there are 19,604 pictures in the gallery.

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

Unable to make the meeting.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Elections are held at the July meeting. The following have been nominated for 2025-2026

President – Jack Dickey

Vice President – Jack Nutter

Treasurer – Richard Steele

Secretary – Shirley Godfrey

Trip Chair – Mary Turpin

Historian – Frank Whiston

Environmental Affairs – Bill Zobel

Program Chair – Cathy Dickey

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor – Don Roy

## NEW BUSINESS:

Don't forget to vote for the outstanding member/Four-Wheeler of the Year, located on the front page of the website.

There is new language proposed for the SOP. The proposed new language will be posted on the website and the membership will vote on it at the June picnic meeting.

- **Trip leader shall be a member in good standing.**
- **Dues shall be delinquent for new members, both Voting and Associate, on the first day of the second month following their membership approval and all rights and privileges of membership shall end.**

There was a proposal to increase dues. The last increase was ten years ago. Due to a lengthy discussion, the dues increase was tabled until the June picnic meeting.

**Increase dues for Voting (full) members to \$60.00**

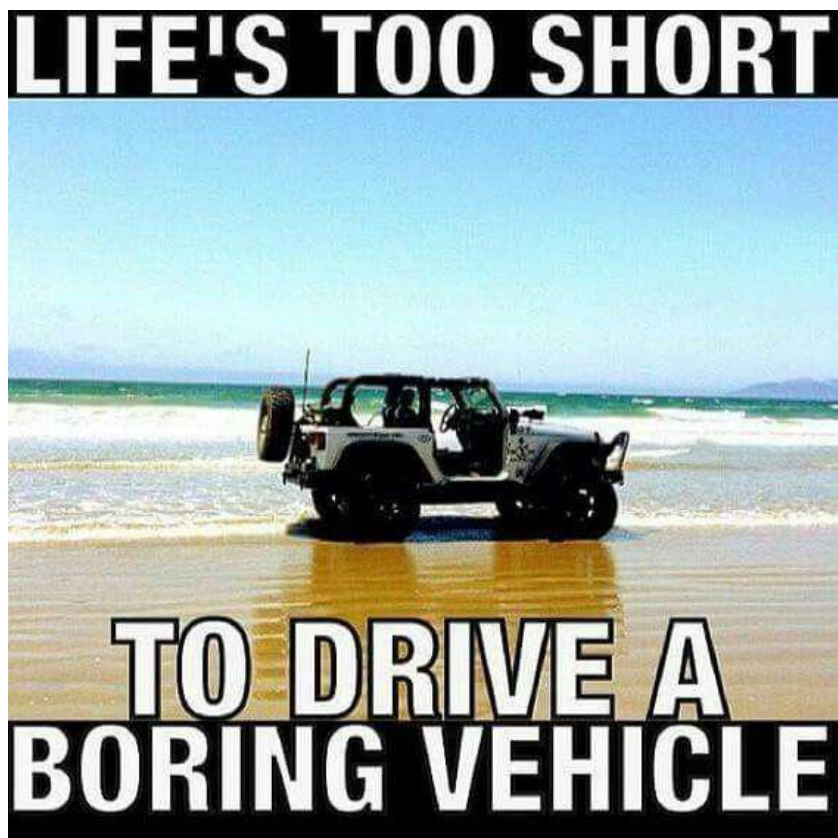
**Increase dues for Associate members to \$30.00**

The board will meet and discuss the budget for next year.

Frank Whiston made a motion to give the Blue Ribbon Coalition \$500.00 in the memory of Jeff Rector. The motion was seconded and approved by a majority of members present.

50/50 raffle - \$55.00. \$27.50 split, winner, Jennifer Myers.

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.





## Director of Environmental Affairs

By William Zobel

### Southern African Safari Vehicles

I recently returned from a safari in the southern African counties of Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Although the vehicle used on the game drives were exclusively referred to as “jeeps,” none were. In fact, I never saw a Jeep product out there!

So, what were they? For the most part they were Toyota Hilux pickups with an occasional Land Cruiser, a couple of Nissan pickups, and one 1976 Land Rover. In most cases the top had been removed and, in all cases, the pickup bed had been converted to seat passengers. Each vehicle would seat 9 people in the pickup bed in 3 rows of 3 seats. The seats were arranged stadium style such that the passengers seated in the back could see over those in the front. A cage of 2-inch diameter pipe gave the appearance of a roll cage as well as served as the roof structure for the canvas top. Each vehicle carried a shovel and a high-lift jack. Our guides used the jack to change a flat tire on one of the drives. Instead of a winch in the front, the brush guards had a fold down table to serve morning tea and coffee and your choice of sundowner beverage in the late afternoon. It is interesting that the animals do not seem bothered by the vehicles. On several occasions we were able to get very close, maybe less than 10 feet away, to lions, a leopard, painted dogs, and some elephants. Get out of the vehicles and it is an entirely different story.



All four National Parks I visited had established trails to get out into the bush and observe the animals. Several parks used large concrete blocks, about 6-foot square and 3 to 4 feet tall, to mark the trails as the elephants were known to pull out conventional signs. I was told that the guides are required to remain on the trails and could be fined if they do not. This was the case until the report of some unique animal came across the GRMS radio, then all bets were off. On a couple of occasions, we were blasting through the brush in pursuit of a lion or leopard. The guides worked together to keep the animal in sight and insure everyone in the vehicles got the opportunity to see the animal and hopefully get some pictures. It was quite an experience bouncing around in the back row of the pickup!





# Mt. Taylor May 4, 2025

By Jeff Boggs

Eleven 4x4's met up on Sunday for a ride up on Mt Taylor. We gassed up and met, all 11 of us. We were concerned about muddy conditions, as it had rained good on Friday and Saturday. Rain was forecasted for Sunday, too.

Off we went and found dry conditions on the lower parts of the loop. We all went up the first climb in low range and had a good time picking through the different lines on this climb. It was cloudy and cool, and wind blew through the trees.

Lunch at a great spot with a view into the valley and big trees all around. Thanks to Snow for taking us to this great camp spot.

We took off and worked our way up to the top of Mt Taylor. Snow patches still in the trees, and big time wind blowing at the top. Didn't stop for long and drove off the other side onto the north loop, mostly down. Some sleet fell on us.

Great trail down the mountain. So far, no mud ! We were surprised. Driving back down to the air up site, it started to rain and hail. Boo! Nobody enjoyed getting hit in the head while airing up. Great day until this episode.

Some of us went to Junkyard Brewery for BBQ. Cool place and great food!  
A great trip up and down Mt Taylor. Everyone loved this ride. We got lucky with the weather, most all day. I took pictures of Mt Taylor on Monday morning. It was covered in new snow. We probably could not have made the loop that day.  
Thanks to everyone for having a good time.





# Go Topless Day - May 17, 2025

By Jeff Boggs

Seventeen 4x4's met up at Walatowa Gas Station/Visitors Center at 9 am. It was a beautiful cool morning and we aired down there.

Driving up through Ponderosa, NM to get to FR 10 and dirt roads, we found few other vehicles on the forest roads we drove for the rest of the day. We climbed to 8900 ft elevation and had 61 degree weather with a nice breeze. Crossed a small mountain stream as we dropped into a beautiful canyon. Then, it was up a steep switchback climb and a good view to the south.

We got to San Juan Mesa for a nice lunch spot. Got to visit with 9 new guests that had signed up for this ride. Dogs enjoyed the day, too!

After lunch, we drove just a short way and stopped to check out some unexcavated ruins along a cliff looking down into the San Juan Canyon. Mounds of rocks in generally square shapes showed what looked to be multiple rooms. This is all overgrown with bushes. Must have been a busy place to live 1000 or more years ago.

We finished up a nice loop around the mesa and decided to drive out Cat Mesa to finish the day. Very dusty!! This was an out and back road,

Back to FR 10 and up to Highway 4 to air up and say our goodbyes. Everyone headed home. A nice day and everyone liked the route.

Thanks to everyone for getting out of town and helping make this another fun day, doing what NM4W folks do best!!

Jeff Boggs, Trail Leader



# Member Spotlight Reboot

By Frank Whiston and Joan Wolf

The Rectors have been a topic of much conversation ever since the club received the news of Jeff's passing a few months ago including a car show on the calendar. With approximately 73% of our members having joined within the past decade, many may not be familiar with their legacy. Years ago, Joan Wolf—an honorary member—crafted a delightful series of articles titled "Member Spotlight," where she would interview club members and document their stories. To honor the Rectors and acquaint newer members with them, we revisit Joan's piece from the February 2003 issue of Trail Tales.

## Member Spotlight: Jeff & Lauri Rector By Joan Wolf



Jeff & Lauri on the Sagebrush Flats Loop Trail

The Rectors have packed a lot into their first nine months as NM4W members by attending nearly every meeting and event on the calendar. Says Lauri, "The Club feels like home. Members have been so open and made us feel welcome." Ethel May Peebles remarked about the Rectors, "They're such a great couple and have put a lot into the Club, they come to everything." Their journey to New Mexico began in June 1999 when they drove Jeff's CJ-7 from Indiana to Las Cruces in search of four wheeling. Spotting some modified rigs outside an automotive shop, they had fortunately come upon some members of the Las Cruces 4WDC. At their suggestion, Jeff and Lauri checked out the Deming mud bogging event and then Broad Canyon. They loved the wheeling so much, they set their goal on moving to New Mexico.

In 2001 they sold their place in Indiana, quit their jobs, said goodbye to their grown sons (Ben is now 21, Jake is 19), and headed west. Given their job skills and

Midwestern work ethic, it didn't take long for Albuquerque employers to snatch them up. Lauri is a Customer Service Representative with Manuel Lujan Insurance and Jeff is a steel cutter at Choice Steel.

They attended the 2001 Chile Challenge and again ran Broad Canyon. "It's my favorite trail," explains Jeff. "I've run it three times and every time it's different. You can make it hard or take the drive-arounds and make it easy." They also enjoyed last summer's quarterly SWFWDA event in the mountains outside Salida, Colorado. Future runs? "An extreme trail at the 2003 Chile Challenge and every trail in Moab. We were there once but only had time to run Pritchett Canyon. We want to do 'em all."

Okay, for you gearheads that have patiently read this far, here's what you're looking for. Jeff bought his Jeep CJ-7 new in 1984. It now sports a fuel-injected 401, Turbo 400 automatic transmission, Dana 20 transfer case, reverse pinion 9" rear with Detroit locker, Dana 44 front with an ARB locker, 4.56 gears all around, and 35" BFG mudders. Jeff did the camouflage paint job himself and reasons, "If it gets scratched, I just go in the garage and touch it up." A two-Jeep family, Lauri drives a '95 Wrangler with 2-112" lift, 31" BFG All Terrains, and she proudly adds, "Borla catback exhaust." After driving her Wrangler on the recent Chic Challenge, Lauri said "driving off road was awesome. It was an extreme trail for me and my Wrangler, but I loved it!"



The Cimarron Mesa Trails Area



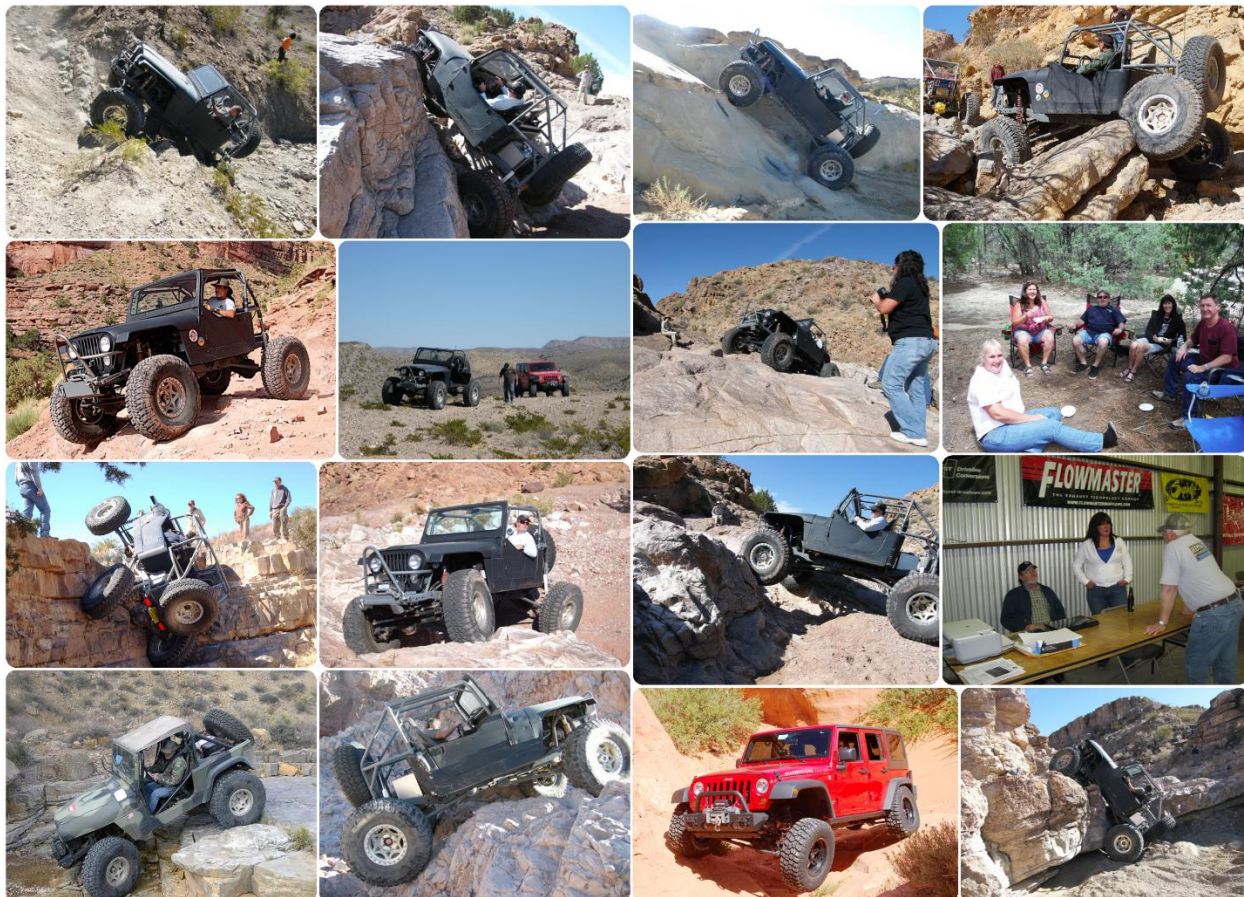
Lauri and Jeff hope to take occupancy soon of their new house being built on the far West side. Jeff beams, "I'll have a 32'x32' stand-alone garage. It's bigger than the house and can fit nine Jeeps inside!" Okay Jeff, if you say so.

And what's with their classy (?) bumper sticker "Jeep Naked-It Adds Color to Your Cheeks". Lauri explains, "We hit the shops in Moab and spent \$90 in a half hour, including the bumper sticker."

Jeff and Lauri hope to lead some runs after they become more familiar with the area and get settled in their new house. "We really enjoy the Club and the four-wheeling, and hope we don't lose our enthusiasm," says Lauri. The rest of the Club hopes the same and that the Rector's enthusiasm proves contagious.

Jeff served two terms as Vice President, followed by Lauri who also participated in various officer roles over subsequent years. Jeff became passionate about extreme 4-wheeling, significantly modifying his CJ-7 by cutting the frame and body behind the front seat to accommodate coil springs and 40-inch tires. He was a pioneer, exploring many of the challenging trails at Gordy's Hill and around Las Cruces. Jeff also played a key role in creating and installing the club's first sign marking Gordy's Hill as an OHV area, twenty years ago.

Lauri owned several Jeep Wranglers over the years and currently drives a 2021 Ford Bronco with factory 35-inch tires. Although life circumstances reduced the Rectors' active participation in the club over the past decade, they maintained their membership and continued to pay their dues, demonstrating their commitment to NM4W and its mission within the broader 4WD community. With Lauri's acquisition of her new Bronco, we have been delighted to see them re-engage with the club. We want to assure Lauri that she is a valued member of our 4WD family and always welcome. We look forward to seeing her on the trails with us in her Bronco.





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## NM4W Officers and Staff

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

