

**GILA CHAPTER OF BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
MEETING NOTES FOR October 14, 2015**

The meeting was held at the conference room at the Gila Regional Medical Center.

Members in attendance were: Doug & Dixie Dexter, Jean Hill, Rawlings Lemon, Mickey Lemon, Cheryl Roth, Victoria Chick, Mike Dowd, , Russ, Dave, Andrea & Nancy Imler, Sharon Brown, Joan Dewbre, Laurie Wlosinski, Ted & Mara Miles, returning members Tom Conway, Maureen McLeod, and guests Libby Beck and Camille Painter Davis.

The Business Meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Dexter at 6:05 PM.

Our guests from the San Vicente Artists introduced a possible BCH/SVA joint fundraising event. SVA board is looking to sometime in 2016. The Board at SVA needs people to help put together an art reception and wine tasting event at the Old Elks Lodge. The donated art would be put up for silent auction/actual auction. Attendees would buy admission tickets (estimated at \$50). Food and wine offerings would be expected to be donations from local businesses. After expenses, proceeds would be divided 60% to BCH and 40% to SVA. Dexter requested volunteers to meet with SVA to discuss dates, responsibilities, staffing, up-front soliciting, etc. Laurie W and Mara Miles stepped up to the request. Dexter also advised SVA representatives that our commitment to a successful NATRC event the first weekend in April would, of necessity, take priority for volunteer hours.

There were no adds or changes to the Agenda.

Approval of the minutes for the September 9th meeting was delayed to the November meeting as no one admitted to reading them

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Education:** No Education segment was scheduled for this meeting
2. **Publicity:** Ted Miles reported on the progress made for the NATRC flyer. Changed the location from Silver City to Mimbres Valley was suggested. Ted also reported that a story prepared by Cindi had been sent to the Independent, dealing with horse digestive system.
3. **Public Service/Communications:** Gerry was hunting – no update
4. **Financial / Membership Report:** Jean Hill provided the stats. 59 Gila BCH emberships and a treasury of \$1,800 as of 10/14/2015.
5. **Tonight'**

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Equine Evacuation** – no report. Dexter to follow up on action from last meeting.
2. **GCMSAR** – no activity. Training will be coordinated with future trail work.
3. **Adopt-a- highway** - The September trash recovery effort was supported by 8 BCH members and 12 big bags were collected. Next date TBD
4. **NATRC update:**
 - a. Vicki reported that the applications are in to NATRC and the ride should be up on the website soon, allowing BCH to start soliciting support from local business, and marketing the ride locally and to the Region 3 NATRC folks.
 - b. A two-truck survey of thee potential trails, P and R sites and review of the mapping took place on 10/13. Much was learned and GPS maps were prepared by Laurie and Russ. A second trip is needed to expand the information and finalize the routes.
 - c. It was suggested that we have a breed specific class be added and that we solicit breed associations for possible donations, ie Missouri Foxtrotter Association.

Action: Victoria to schedule the next trip as well as the next planning meeting and continue to chase volunteers for assistants and backup.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Christmas party discussion. Dexter advised that we have a 'penciled in' date for the first Saturday in December at the Bear Mountain Lodge. Due to comments about how crowded the space is for our party, Dexter is discussing using the Buckhorn Opera house. Owners out of the country and unless they return in time for a commitment by the weekend, we will confirm the Bear Mountain for the tentative date. A brief discussion about using the NAN ranch for the party was not particularly popular due to potential weather issues and the hour drive from Silver.
2. Dexter reminded all present that their opportunity to step up and volunteer for one of the Chair positions is in the November meeting. Dexter agreed to circulate the list of Chairs and their responsibilities to the membership.
3. Cheryl offered some Education segment thoughts and received some input from the attendees:
 - Grant County extension office
 - Loco weed with the possible inclusion of ranchers or others
 - Humane put-down of horse on trail
 - Karla Johnson – trail book
 - Equine dentistry – Dr. Allred
4. No State issues were discussed as Stan and Fran were not in attendance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Everyone was encouraged to visit the website for the Continental Trail funding and vote for the CDT **every day through October. Each person, each day may get the CDT funded with \$25,000.** Visit <http://superiortrails.michelobultra.com>

The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 to meet next on Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 6 PM at the Gila Regional Medical Center conference room.