

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 11/15/2017 6:00 PM | Meeting location WNMU Watts Hall

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Joan Bacon, Cathy Brett, Linda Brewer, Sharon A. Brown, Donna Cinti, Zack Crockett, Cindi deCapiteau, Susan Dent, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Victoria Dowd, Gerry Engel, Andrea Imler, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Jean Hill, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Ann McLean, Maureen McLeod, Sharon Norris, Cheryl Roth, Randy Roth, Teresa Smergut, Becky Shumway, Donna Tillmann, Ilene Wignall, Nat Williams, Laurie Wlosinski, Pat Wolph

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic Additions or changes to agenda | Presenter Doug Dexter

The agenda met the approval of all present. Moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to accept as submitted.

Agenda topic Education Segment | Presenter Linda Brewer

Out in the world exists mass atrocity, conflict, genocide, and countless other ways to make life hard on ourselves. "One Million Bones: The Project" is a large-scale social arts effort to raise awareness of such ongoing activities in places like Sudan, Somalia, and Burma. Project organizers mobilized thousands of children all over the US to create hand-crafted ceramic bones for an installation event in Washington, DC in 2013. The collection of one million bones has made its way to Silver City.

Linda Brewer of Bear Mountain Lodge visited with us this evening to elicit our assistance in relocating the bones, which were recently delivered to the Lodge in 57 pallets, to the Lodge's back ridge. The installation represents Bear Mountain Lodge's first public art exhibit for 2017. The work will be deeded to Grant County, but will reside permanently on Lodge property.

The project was inspired by a hedge row of skulls and bones created by survivors of Rwanda's epic genocide to honor the estimated 800,000 people sacrificed to the lunacy and folly of Rwanda's civil war in the 1990s. Linda noted that the project is not political in nature; rather, it's about remembering history.

The Lodge needs help from the Silver City/Grant County community to haul the two semi-trailers of ceramic bones up the mountain. Linda advised that Gerry Engel and Rawlings Lemon have helped in the effort to haul bones up the mountain. The bones, she commented, are not fragile and need to be transported about a mile. Trips with pack horses would facilitate the process—and would require about 200 pack animal trips.

Bear Mountain Lodge is planning for an April 2018 grand opening for the installation. Between now and then, Szyrgy Tile will set up a station at the next annual Clayfest so residents can make a bone.

Gerry Engel offered to coordinate GBCH's contribution to the effort. Linda added that the project is ongoing and anybody willing to haul a 20lb. crate of bones can come out to the Lodge any time.

On a tangential matter, Linda commented that she has a slide show of Mongolia that we might be interested in.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Coordinate pack trips to transport ceramic bones at Bear Mountain Lodge	Gerry Engel	April 14, 2018
Coordinate education segment featuring Linda's Mongolia slide show, possibly to be shown at the Agency Room at WNMU.	Cheryl Roth	

Agenda topic *Financial and Membership reports* | **Presenter** *Nancy Imler*

Nancy Imler reported that the Gila chapter has a respectable bank balance that included a deposit of \$0.76 interest for October 2017. She added that we now have 70 members, which crowns us with the honor of being New Mexico's largest BCH chapter. The 70 members are divided up into 24 families and 20 single memberships. Now wouldn't you think that with so many people available, someone would be willing to serve as chapter secretary, to relieve the exhausted current secretary of her duties?

Action items	Person responsible
Volunteer to serve as GBCH secretary	Somebody – anybody!

Agenda topic *Publicity* | **Presenter** *Ted Miles, Mara Miles*

Although there was no publicity report this evening, Doug Dexter noted that the chapter has an opportunity to display an exhibit at the Silver City Library about our work. The exhibit needs to be ready by January. Gerry Engel suggested that the Forest Service might be willing to make a poster for us if we provide the photos. Doug Dexter will coordinate the effort.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Coordinate GBCH display at the library	Doug Dexter	January 2018
Provide photos to Gerry	Cindi deCapiteau	Immediately
Get the Forest Service to make a poster	Gerry Engel	

Agenda topic *Public Service/Communications* | **Presenter** *Gerry Engel, Amy Hartell*

Gerry Engel reported that he has submitted the chapter's expense report to the Forest Service for 2017. We have one more year of money left on the latest grant and there's lots of money left over. We can receive reimbursement for the mileage we incur going to and from trail projects, as well as camping expenses, and some supplies. We could buy supplies, although we're in good shape for equipment (although we could use new chains for the chainsaws). We might be able to extend the time we have to spend up the money, Gerry noted, since the forest supervisor can authorize changes on the grant. Gerry said he needs to figure out how much money is left over.

Gerry also said that he met with three BCH members from Alabama. They went out into the wilderness out here for seven days, during which they saw elk and bear and traveled for about 75 miles. A good time was had by all.

Action items

Person responsible

Calculate how much money remains for trail projects and figure out how to spend it. Gerry Engel

Agenda topic *Equine Evacuation, call tree* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

Doug is still working on updating the call tree.

Agenda topic *GCSAR – mounted training update* | **Presenter** *Laurie Wlosinski, Russ Imler*

The Grant County Search and Rescue team has had a little bit of work to do. A mission past Black Canyon sent searchers out for two lost hunters—who were found. GCSAR geared up to respond to a call for a hiker lost around the Leopold vista, but the hiker turned up before the team got on the road. The team was alerted to a call precipitated by an aircraft beacon, but that turned out to be just a rough landing and no action was required.

Andrea Imler said she is presenting a class of three study groups for ham radio. The classes will occur on the last Saturday in January and the first two Saturdays in February.

Agenda topic *NAN Ranch Ride (NATRC)* | **Presenter** *Cindi deCapiteau, Vicki Dowd*

The 2018 NAN Ranch Ride is still scheduled for April 20-22, 2018. Competitors will be arriving on Friday, April 20. The ride itself will occur on Saturday and Sunday, April 21 and 22. The ride organizers are laying out the trails now and collecting volunteers and managers from all corners of Grant County. Nat Williams offered to serve as a safety rider.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

Contact Cindi deCapiteau (cdecapiteau@gmail.com) 575-519-0848 to volunteer for a job at the ride.	Anybody who doesn't already have a job.	ASAP
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Agenda topic *BCHNM Report* | **Presenter** *Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon*

According to the Gila chapter's delegates to BCH of New Mexico, the state organization is proposing to increase dues by \$3 for individual memberships and \$6 for family membership. With the additional money, the state would come out \$46 in the black. The state has two other dues increase proposals. One is a \$4 individual \$8 family increase, which would garner \$442 for the state. The third is a \$5 individual \$10 family increase, which would put the state \$795 in the black.

BCHNM proposes to use the additional money generated by a dues increase to organize new chapters, help chapters buy equipment, fund travel expenses for the BCHNM president (who wants to visit each of the chapters).

At the moment, the state doesn't have sufficient funding in the potential absence of money raised by the Rendezvous auctions, a situation that is sorta uncomfortable because the Rendezvous is supposed to support itself and isn't intended to raise money so the state can keep operating. That said, any hosting chapter that wants to hold fundraising activities at the Rendezvous can certainly do so if it so desires.

Mickey Lemon commented that the greatest contributions to last year's Rendezvous raffle came from the Gila chapters and that some of the larger chapters didn't come through very well.

Mickey noted that a conference call would be held with the state board members and the chapter delegates and that august body wants to vote on the dues increase at that time. So the question for us right now is what do we want to do? Do we want to raise dues?

Vicki Dowd commented that if the state is asking for more money, we need to know where it's going. Mickey responded that \$240 a year covers the state's meeting room and post office box. Another \$4,400 covers national dues and \$2,690 covers the national board meeting. Insurance costs are a wash because they are offset by insurance contributions from the chapters.

Gerry Engel mused that we could conduct a fundraiser instead of having a forced dues increase—and that membership is important because more members means greater influence; Mickey added that we won't gain anything if we lost members because dues have increased. The state needs to send two delegates to the national conference so that New Mexico's interests can be represented in policy voting.

Rawlings commented that if the majority of chapters vote for a dues increase, GBCH doesn't necessarily need to raise its dues. Rather, we could have our own fundraiser to pay the increase and our dues could remain the same.

Gerry recommended that the chapter should support the \$3 individual \$6 family proposal since the state would thereby break even, but would also have incentive to conduct fundraisers. Vicki commented that if dues go up by only \$3, then we'll be doing this again next year.

Doug Dexter summarized that the Gila chapter's position is not to raise our local dues, but to support the state's \$3/\$6 increase and cover the additional dues obligation with fundraisers. A motion to that effect was made, seconded, and voted upon favorably.

Gerry made a further suggestion that the state itself conducts fundraisers; our Rendezvous raffle was a piece of cake and BCHNM is now in good shape because of what we accomplished at the Rendezvous—so there's no reason other chapters can't do the same thing—and it doesn't even have to occur in connection with the Rendezvous. Gerry noted that it takes considerable effort to conduct an auction, but not so much to put on a raffle.

Joan Bacon observed that the GBCH is the largest of the eight New Mexico chapters, so aren't we carrying BCHNM anyway?

Vicki offered that she and Mike Dowd have a timeshare for which they do not take full advantage. They could donate their timeshare as a fundraiser for the state; she will give information about this to Rawlings before the conference call.

Gerry said he received a phone call from Dan Key (BCHNM president) about the bylaws amendment. (You remember this matter, which defines the terms of state officers. One of the NM chapters argues that the slate of state officers should expire in alternate years so that a certain continuity of leadership is in force.) Dan wanted to know if GBCH was going to vote on this, but Gerry noted that there's nothing to vote on because there's no proposal in writing. Anyway, we already voted on the alternate duty cycle.

Agenda topic *GBCH Christmas Party* | **Presenter** *Vicki Dowd, Laurie Wlosinski*

Vicki noted that everything is all set with the Buckhorn Saloon for the chapter's Christmas party on December 3. The Saloon will open for setup at 9:30 a.m. that day. Vicki ruefully observed that the membership's sign-up for the party hasn't been as robust as party organizers had hoped; nevertheless, of the 32 people who signed up to attend, 32 have agreed to bring food. Vicki said she will send out another reminder (she has already sent out two of them), but she would like people to sign up here and now. She added that any food contribution would be welcomed.

The cost to attend is \$10 a person, which covers the cost of renting the Saloon (\$300).

Laurie Wlosinski commented that GBCH members have contributed three bins of stuff (50 or 60 items) for the silent auction to be held at the party. Although Laurie will be out of town and therefore unable to attend, Teresa Smergut agreed to handle the auction in Laurie's absence, with assistance from Ann McLean. Laurie added that we'll need as much surface space as possible for display.

If you plan to participate in the auction, plan to pay by check. Cash will be accepted, but payment by check is preferred because it makes bookkeeping so much easier.

Doug closed the discussion by commenting that somebody offered to provide music, but the idea probably won't work because space at the Saloon is so limited. Nevertheless, Doug will bring his trusty amplifier just in case.

Agenda topic Suggestions for future education segments | Presenter Cheryl Roth

Cheryl Roth advised that Becky Shumway has something going on with native grasses. Cheryl will call Becky about a supply of seeds.

Agenda topic Annual elections | Presenter Doug Dexter

Speaking to the reluctant assembly, Doug broached the matter of annual elections. He advised that we have already handled the office of treasurer (kudos to Nancy Imler for taking on that one). Ted and Mara Miles will continue to handle publicity and Cheryl will continue as education chair. We need (and still need as of this writing) a vice president and a secretary. Nobody stepped up for either office, which is a darn shame.

Doug offered to step down as president if somebody else wants to hold the position.

Laurie will continue as liaison for Grant County Search and Rescue.

Joan Bacon will serve as assistant public service chair to help out Gerry.

Becky Shumway, who has been serving as interim vice president, offered to continue in that role.

Mickey and Rawlings will continue as state representatives.

Doug pleaded for somebody to serve as secretary, but nobody stepped up.

SOMEBODY NEEDS TO BE THE SECRETARY!!!!!!!

Agenda topic Announcements

Christmas Party at the Buckhorn, December 3, 2017.

Randy Roth posted meeting dates for the Southwest Horseman's Association, which is looking for more members. Membership is cheap (like \$15 bucks). Contact Randy directly for more information.

The Gila Chapter sponsored a concealed carry class in 2013. The resulting permits have expired. Randy has looked into pathways to renewal and discovered that Arizona has an online application that costs \$75; the permit is valid for three years. Virginia, on the other hand, has a five-year permit for \$100, but processing time in the Old Dominion is three-to-six months. One does not need to have an existing valid permit to qualify for either an Arizona or Virginia permit.

Gerry asked Randy to comment on the proceeds from the 2017 SW Horsemen's Association Rodeo; Randy replied that they broke even. He also noted that the Association has a new president, a local guy named Myer who has been here for 30 years and is a real go-getter.

Doug reported that Heroes and Horses (a PTSD recovery outfit for military veterans) moseyed through Silver City last February with vets on equines. H&H has produced a film called "500 Miles" about their trek up the Continental Divide Trail." The film has respectable cinematic credentials, having been directed by the artist who produced "Unbranded." H&H is scheduling screenings in Silver City in the coming weeks. Russell Lewis, an outfitter and an on-site writer for the film, contacted Doug and offered to do a question-and-answer session following the screenings. H&H is suggesting a donation of \$25 for the screening, but viewers can contribute any amount with which they feel comfortable.

Next meeting: January 10, 2018