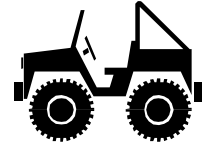


# Trail Tales



February 1, 2008 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers [www.nm4w.org](http://www.nm4w.org)

## Meeting Minutes

From January 10, 2008  
by Cliff Meier



Meeting was held at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Guests:** Robert Gill, Ed Henderson, John Baker, Brandon Roby, Jeff Boggs, Rick Sierra, Steve Lamberson, Jimmy Lloyd, Adam Bruha, and Ed Henderson.

**Members Present:** Joe & Crystal Abbate, Mark & Maria Berglund, Glenn Bontly & Jan, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Rance & Elizabeth Cochrane, Leon Duggar, Arne Gjerner, Keith & Linda Jurey, Russ Kaz, Ed Kuasche, Jason & Sara Lavy, Jerry & Barbara Marx, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Jerry & Mary Moran, Bob Norton, Chuck & Ethel May Peeples, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Chris Sears, Justin & Rebecca Simenson, Carlos Tanner, Bob Telepak, Stuart Tefft, Paul & Mary Thompson, Mary Turpin, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, and Tahoe Zahn.

**Secretary's Report – Cliff Meier:** A motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the December meeting minutes. The minutes had been published in the January 2008 newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** The current balance was \$3,030.47.

**Vice President's Report – Frank G. Whiston:** Frank reviewed the points system. No fines.

### **Trip Chairman's Report – Jan Waugh:**

#### Past Events:

Rockin' New Year's Eve- All had a good time.

Upcoming Events: See the website for additional events & meetings.

Chile Challenge – February 20-23. The club website has a place for members to show which trails on which days they plan to run. Get and wear the club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary apparel from website.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister:** Cibola NF Travel Management Plan – waiting for Environmental Assessment (EA) report, it should be out in a week or so. The 30 day official comment period starts then. Mark will put together some comment talking points.

Notice of Intent for the Rio Puerco BLM Management plan rewrite will be out in Feb. This will be the official start of this activity.

New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance (NMOHVA) convention will be held in Albuquerque during March. NMOHVA meeting is scheduled for Apr 12.

The Club was contacted by the Santa Fe Forest Service to help fix a washed out road in the Jemez, FR 4A. Dates are May 3 with May 10 as an alternate.

See Marks' environmental report in the newsletter for more details.

**Program Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy:** Jason sold 50/50 raffle tickets. Tee shirts, hats, stickers, & pins were for sale after the meeting.

**Historian's Report – Justin Simenson:** Justin made some excellent posters with important dates throughout the club's 50 year history. He is still looking for photos.

**Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Nothing! Lauri stole Glenn's thunder (what little he had) by inviting prospective new members to complete an on-line membership application.

**SW Delegate** – No report.

### **Old Business:**

Baby Shower on Saturday. Several e-mails have been sent with the details.

Chile Challenge Raffle tickets now on sale. See Leon Duggar. Make sure you include your area code with the phone number. Pay when you turn in the ticket stubs to Leon. The tickets are \$1 each, in packs of 10. Checks should be written to SWFWDA, not NM4Wheelers. This is the primary fund raising event for SW. The prizes will include a Warn Winch, Detroit locker, tires, and more. This will be Leon's last year running the raffle. He is looking for a replacement.

Harold Ogden is retiring Jan 11 from Warn. Please send an e-mail to Harold thanking him for supporting our raffles, [OgdenH@warn.com](mailto:OgdenH@warn.com).

2008 Summer Quarterly: The Quarterly is scheduled for July 31 thru Aug 2 in Salida, CO. You need to make your reservations at the Chalk Creek Campground (888-395-8830) as soon as possible. See the Events Schedule portion of the newsletter for contact details. Trail Leader and Tail Gunner sign up was discussed. About half of the 14 trails have leaders and tail gunners; still will need leader and gunner volunteers for the remainder of the trails. Samples of the leader/tail gunner information guides were available for review. Trails run from easy to really difficult, so there is something for everyone. The trail guides and maps will be available at future meetings. Contact Cliff Meier if you want to volunteer.

Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Steve Stucker was contacted, he said contact him a month in advance of events and he will help to publicize. Spring run, Summer Quarterly, annual picnic, and the Show & Shine car show May 18 will be anniversary events. The club has volunteered to help with logistics for the car show. Contact Frank G. Whiston if you are interested and/or want details.

### **New Business:**

Mark Werkmeister moved that the club help the Jemez Ranger district repair Forest Road 4A. The motion passed. Mark will coordinate the effort.

The Club received requests from Parts & People and Baseline 4X4 Outfitters for club information to be posted on new websites that they developing. The club decided that there was no need to be listed on other sites.

Super Nationals are scheduled for February 1-3 at the Fairgrounds. Contact Frank G. Whiston if you are interested.

Mark Wolf and Jan Waugh have discussed proposed changes in the points system. A new category, the member who leads the most trails would be awarded a \$100 gift certificate for this year. A motion was made and passed to try this for this year and then it would be evaluated if it should be made permanent.

Mark Wolf made a motion to change the SOPs as required to increase the annual most active member award (most points) from \$50 to \$100. The motion was passed.

Frank has 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary calendars for sale for \$17.00 each.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

**Winner of the 50/50 drawing:** Ed Kausche - \$47.00.



## **President's Report**

By Lauri Rector

Every month I just can't believe that it is such and such month of such and such year. This month is no different. It seems that it was just a few months ago and I was thinking that we had a lot of time before the CHILE CHALLENGE (yes, I'm really excited about it again this year – and this will be our 8<sup>th</sup> year to attend). Then, before I knew it, we were sending in our registration and having to schedule the time off of work. It is now only 3 weeks and 2 days away!!!! Wooo Hooo!!! I may be too late for this, if I didn't do it last month, but I hope that our club has a good turn out for this event. And, if you can't attend – BUY RAFFLE TICKETS!!!! Leon Duggar has really got some good prizes from sponsors and it is a good way to support the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association (SWFWDA). Plan to bring some \$\$\$\$ and a stamp to the meeting and buy some. If you don't have a stamp, Leon only needs your name, NM4W, and a phone number – he'll be able to find you.

Something else about the CHILE CHALLENGE is that we will officially find out if our application to host the 2008 Summer Quarterly is accepted. Then we will be able to roll out and publish all of our ideas and hard work and efforts. I became just more amazed at our members who have volunteered to help out with this event. It is really amazing the work that Cliff Meier has put into information on the trails for trail leaders and tail gunners to use for the actual event and for pre-running the trails. Also, Mary Turpin has put together a really good flyer (and probably registration form too). Also, if you haven't registered for the camping at the awesome RV place that Leon Duggar arranged for us (in his spare time of working on the raffle for the CHILE CHALLENGE), plan to do so really soon (it comes faster than we think it will).

We have some events coming up with the New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance (NMOHVA). They are the hosts of the annual meeting of National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) this year – it is scheduled for the end of March. If you didn't attend the seminars last

year, you missed it. This organization has some great people that are very much OHV enthusiasts as well as knowing how to work with forest people. I attended on Saturday and then decided that I couldn't miss attending on Sunday. I don't know what the annual meeting is like, but I'm sure all those that attend will come away with some useful knowledge!!! You'll also meet people from all over the country – that also like to go off road. And the NMOHVA meeting is coming up on April the 12<sup>th</sup> – you should put this on your calendar.

Don't forget the new points award that we voted in at the January meeting. The member leading the most trails will get a \$100 gift certificate from Desert Rat. This is huge folks!!!! If getting out on the trail with a bunch of other people and not having to eat their dust isn't enough motivation to lead a trail, this should do it. We also increased the "most points" gift certificate to \$100. But, what this means is that if you lead the most trails, you will most likely also have the most points. This could be \$200 for someone – someone that is willing to put their self out there and lead trails. And, chances are there is something you need that Desert Rat sells at almost anytime of the year. With the Jemez and Gordy's Hill so close by (less than a 2 hour driver for the majority of us) – just how hard would it be?

Hope to see our Event Schedule filling up and to see you all real soon out on the trail.

**From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs**

By Mark Werkmeister

Hello NM4Wer's,

This is going to be a short report. By the time you read this, the Environmental Assessment for the Travel Management Rule (designating a road and trail system for motorized use) for the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest should be officially out for comment. Since this in an EA, the time period will be short, probably only 30 days. Go to the Cibola National Forest web site:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/tm\\_sandia/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/tm_sandia/index.shtml)

Read the EA carefully and make your comments. After I read the official version, I will be offering some insights into the impact and effect the EA will have on our local four wheeling and some suggested comments. I will post this information at the New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance website ([www.nmohva.org](http://www.nmohva.org)). PLEASE READ THE EA AND THE INFORMATION ON THE NMOHVA WEBSITE AND THEN MAKE YOUR COMMENTS!!!! Remember, the interest by the four wheeling public and the final results in the Sandia Ranger District can have a HUGE impact on how the Travel Management Rule is implemented on the rest of the Cibola National Forest.

**Remember, you only have 30 days to make your comments!**

The Santa Fe National Forest is still in the pre-NEPA (remember the NEPA discussion from last month?) stage. We expect the Notice of Intent, the official start of the NEPA process to occur sometime in late March/early April. They will probably release the Proposed Action at the same time. Hopefully, the proposed action will include all of the roads and trails that we submitted over the last year, but we must be ready to keep the pressure on. The Notice and Proposed Action will have a public comment period associated with it and I will keep you updated.

The Bureau of Land Management is getting into the route designation process also, but is doing it on an office-by-office basis as they renew/revise their Resource Management Plans. The Albuquerque

office is expected to publish the Notice of Intent for the start of the planning process on the Rio Puerco Resource Area in mid-February. This plan revision offers us the opportunity to identify existing and needed motorized recreation trails, roads, and areas across the entire Rio Puerco Resource Management Area. We do lots of stuff in that area now and would like to do more! I will, again, keep you posted as this process moves forward, but it isn't too early to be thinking about what you want for opportunities.

And finally, I encourage each of you to check out the new NMOHVA website ([www.nmohva.org](http://www.nmohva.org)). The new web page allows updated news, access issues, and calendar items on a real-time basis. This makes the NMOHVA website your best LOCAL source for up-to-date info on four wheeling items. If you have anything you need posted, just drop a note to [web@nmohva.org](mailto:web@nmohva.org).

'Til next month, keep your letter writing tools sharp and busy!

Your DEA,  
Mark

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual NM4W Rockin' New Year's at Gordy's Hill By Lauri Rector

If I had my say on this annual event, it would be called the NM4W Polar Bear Run. It would have been great weather for this time of year, if New Years had come 1 day earlier.

The originator of this event is Mark Werkmeister. However, since the 1<sup>st</sup> year, he has managed to not attend for one reason or another – like too much snow, just completely cancelled the event (good idea) and then something about running a fever and being really sick – he called us after it was too late to cancel the whole event (ok, good idea that he didn't come – at least I have stayed healthy so far this winter).



Some of the frozen attendees for the day on Saturday were Jeff & James Boggs, Joe Wilson and his friend Russ and son Chase, and Russ Kas & Glenn Giboney. Then on Sunday we had a whole new crew come and join us – Glenn Bontly and Jan, Mark Berglund and about 3 people riding with him, Justin Simenson and a out-of-town relative (from Minnesota, complaining that it wasn't cold enough) with his son, and Paul Caskey.



And the people that chose to camp there were Jeff and I, Keith Chapin, and Heath Hislop. We were all there for the whole dang weekend. Mark and Joan Wolf were a little smarter and didn't join us until sometime Sunday afternoon. Paul Caskey's dad drove in Sunday afternoon as well, and they got motel room in town. Clint Cates (RDY2ROK) and Kevin (never got his name, he's a good friend of Clint's) got there first on Saturday morning, but pulled out before the runs on Monday.

When Mark called to say he wasn't going to be able to make it (I don't recall that he really sounded that sick – was he just making it up?), he said that I was in charge – so when in charge, delegate. Heath Hislop seemed more than happy to lead the trails and Keith Chapin tail gunned. Heath also picked the trails that the big tired people would do (Jeff, Clint, and Kevin) and Jeff led that group.

Heath did an awesome job on picking the trails!!!! He took everyone to their limit, including those with the big tires – and consider Heath's rig is a Samari. Even though we weren't on the trail with everyone else, it seems that we all just all had a ton of fun!!! Heath had a good map, but no one had a list of the trail names. So, I'm not positive on the names of some of the trails described below.

Saturday we did Pucker Falls - all 8 vehicles. Some had to stop earlier than others. Jeff made it up with a winch after he broke the left hub. Clint made it up with a winch in his little Jeep, and Kevin made it up beautifully – all by himself. Everyone had fun watching, even if they knew they weren't going to be doing it. Heath led everyone back & then up on the ridge and back down into the valley. Jeff worked on changing hubs as soon as he got up there and then the 3 of us went on and did the great escape and waited on everyone one else. Pucker Falls was dry and only 1 rock was moved. Then we spent the afternoon doing Cat Fight, except for one Jeep. Russ Kaz, with only a limited slip in the rear, and a manual shift in a TJ finished it with us – which was really awesome.



On Sunday we had 9 vehicles. Heath took the big tires guys down to what we think is Edge Canyon – where Coyote Hills comes out. Then Heath went back and took everyone else up Coyote Hills. The big tired guys had a blast that morning. We waited back at the end of Coyote Hills for everyone and then decided to run it backwards and catch up to everyone. Everyone was still in the canyon with about 2 or 3 more ledges to climb. We ate lunch and then went up the last little bit of the canyon –

playing around waiting on everyone else. Then we decided that we should have plenty of time to go back to the end and went to the start of the trail and brought up the rear as the smaller tire people (sorry, I'm not saying that they are wimpy or that they have small tires) as they were going up the last ledge. What a fun trail!!! We had to bypass the 1<sup>st</sup> ledge (or move rocks or get out winches to make it up). Then Heath took us (those of us who weren't done yet) out to Pucker Falls the hard way (I don't know the name of the trail). The 1<sup>st</sup> water fall has become really easy. The next one looked much easier than the last time we were on it, but Jeff and Clint couldn't make it up. Kevin came right up. Then we ran Squeeze Canyon. That was fun!!! It looked like so much fun that Keith and Heath decided to follow us on up – but Keith immediately broke an axle. So, we all just headed back to camp.

No one came out for the day on Monday (could they have blown away?)– it was only the people that were camping or in a motel. Wolfie didn't want any ledges at all, so we did Cat Fight (Heath left 2 tow straps there on Saturday, this allowed him to get them) and then we went to the North end of the OHV area and did this trail that went way up and way down over a lot of hills, but I don't think it was the woop-ti-doo trail. I can't tell you how windy and cold it was – it was like you were on the frozen tundra of the Antarctic or something. We ended up where the waterfall is and went and played around in there to get me and Jeff out of the wind for a little while (and all I can think is that full doors on his Jeep would do that too). We had our 3<sup>rd</sup> break of the weekend at the waterfall, Heath bent a tie rod. While it was being fixed, we decided that we would carry on with the potluck – despite the wind and the cold and my whining.



We had the potluck in Keith's enclosed trailer with 2 tent heaters going in it. We had dinner at about 6:30 – Joan made this delicious Chinese type of meatball & rice dish. I had Carne Adovado with tortillas, and there was a lot of macaroni & cheese, potato salad, coleslaw, and egg salad for side dishes. The food was so good, we were out of the wind and it was very warm in there too. We told a lot of stories and had a lot of laughs after we got done eating. We decided that we would skip on the bonfire, even if the wind had dyed down some – we were doing good just where we were. We didn't make it to the Nova Scotia New Year though, At 10 after 8, Mark asked who was staying up until midnight and everyone went - NOT ME and we all left and went to bed. Jeff and I woke up shortly after 2008 came in to the sound of the CO2 alarm, due to dead batteries again. Then a few hours after that, we emptied out one of the propane tanks and had to change that. Not my idea of getting the new year off to a good start – but boy, did we send the old year out in a very fun way!!!

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Page on the Web Site

By Glenn Bontly

There's a new page on our web site dedicated to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I will be populating the page throughout the year as I received input from the anniversary committee. The direct link is [http://www.nm4w.org/50th\\_Anniversary.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/50th_Anniversary.htm).



**For Sale**



**Tires:** Set of five (5) Pro Comp 33 X 12.5 AT's for sale. Four of them have 80%+ tread and the fifth is practically new. \$600 or best offer. Call Tim at 505-892-5771.

**TJ Rear Dana 44:** 4.56 Gears, ARB Locker, Superior 30-spline alloy axles, Tubular Diff Guard, Spidertrax 1.25" wheel spacers, Nth degree pinon guard/slider, lower shock sliders, heavy duty trac

bar mount with trac bar to diff support, new brakes shoes, new drums, complete setup, excellent condition. \$1,999 OBO. Call Brad at 505-858-0832.

**Tires & Stuff:** Set of five (5) -- 245/75R16 Goodyear Wrangler MTR's. I bought four of them in January and took them off the beginning of this month. The fifth was from my old set; it still has some good tread as well. I also have stock TJ springs and shocks. Call Justin at 505-299-6982.

**Springs & Mounts:** One pair of front 4" lift Teraflex front springs, brand new, never used. \$150/pair OBO. One pair of front custom spring/shock mounts similar to a TJ, brand new, never used, \$150/pair OBO. Call Wolfie at 505-856-8539.

**Jeep YJ Parts:** 5 each 33x12.5x15 BFG MTs with aluminum alloy rims, all in great shape, one never been used, \$800 takes all. Dana 35 rear, Dana 30 front, 4.88 gears, \$200 for both. Set of steel half doors, \$400 for the pair. Bucket seats for YJ, good conditions, \$100 for the pair. Call Rance Cochrane at 505-907-0604.

For more stuff for sale, please visit our web site at [www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm)

**Club Notes**

**Aluminum Cans:** Our club saves and recycles aluminum cans. Money from the sale of cans goes into our club treasury. Please bring your (CRUSHED) aluminum cans to each meeting, and somebody will take them to the recycling center.

**To Our Guests:** If you attend a club meeting or event and provide us with your e-mail address, we will add you to our guest e-mail list to receive notices of future events as well as the monthly posting of the club newsletter, The Trail Tales, on the web site. *If you are interested in becoming a member of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers, please complete an application for membership*, available on our web site at [www.nm4w.org/join-the-club.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/join-the-club.htm).

**Trail Tales on the Web Site:** In a continuing effort help save natural resources and to control costs, you are encouraged to read the Trail Tales newsletter on the Club Web Site in lieu of receiving a hard copy in the mail. So if you want to help "save some trees", please send an e-mail to [TrailTales@nm4w.org](mailto:TrailTales@nm4w.org) stating that you do not need to receive the hard copy of the newsletter. Thanks for your cooperation.

**Submission Due Date:** The *Trail Tales* is published on the first of each month. Submissions for each issue must be *received* by the Editor not later than the **25<sup>th</sup> of the prior month**. Submissions can be sent to [TrailTales@nm4w.org](mailto:TrailTales@nm4w.org), or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

**Schedule of Events**

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Feb 14	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-891-8517
Feb 20 – 23	Chile Challenge, Las Cruces	Las Cruces 4WD Club	n/a
Mar 14	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-891-8517
Apr 12	NMOHVA Meeting	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Lauri Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:President@nm4w.org">President@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 <a href="mailto:Vice-president@nm4w.org">Vice-president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Secretary@nm4w.org">Secretary@nm4w.org</a>
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<b>Trip Chairman</b> Jan Waugh 250-6962 <a href="mailto:Trip-chairman@nm4w.org">Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 <a href="mailto:Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a>	<b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!

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