



Trail Tales



June 1, 2009

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From May 9, 2009
by Joan Wolf



The first potluck meeting of the season was held at Frank and Beth Whiston's. Frank called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.

Guests: Allen and Mary Jo Heckart ('81 CJ5), Coleman and Liz Hudson ('68 Jeepster under construction--no surprise there, '05 Durango, and another '05 truck.)

Members Present: Paul and Eveliina Baca and daughter, Glenn & Jan Bontly, Paul Caskey, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Russ Kaz & Glenna Giboney, Jason & Sarah Lavy and sons, Tony Louderbough, Mike & Linda Sells, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Mark & Joanne Werkmeister, Frank G. & Beth Whiston and girls, Mark & Joan Wolf, Tahoe & Suzanne Zahn.

Secretary's Report – Jeanne Meier: Not present.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson: Not present. Bank balance \$3,874.78.

VP/Sheriff Report – Cliff Meier: Not present. No fines, except Russ Kaz raised the issue of Wolfie having problems at Gordy's Hill on April 25. Wolfie sidestepped the issue by saying everyone (Rector, Kaz, Berglund) had problems. One extreme trail now features 5-ft ledges that Jeff couldn't climb. The group renamed it "Jeff Rector's It-Was-Never-This-Hard-Before" trail.

Trip Chair's Report – Russ Kaz

Upcoming:

- May 17: NMCCC & Albuquerque Museum's 25th Annual Car Show.
- May 23-25: Memorial Day Campout in the Jemez. Russ expects an excellent turnout as 16 vehicle owners have already RSVP'd. There will be trail runs, Saturday potluck, games for the kids, and trash pickup. On Monday, there will be the club's traditional run to the log skidder. Russ is doing a great job of putting together a fun family outing.
- June 13: Summer Picnic/Meeting. The club will provide the main dish, paper products, and drinks. Bring a side dish, lawn chairs, and a good appetite. Location is the beautiful Carolino Canyon Picnic area on Hwy 337 (south Hwy 14).
- July 3-11: 4th of July trip to Creede, CO. Easy trails, wonderful scenery. Potluck on July 4, starting sometime between 5 and 6 pm. Fifteen vehicles are expected.
- August 9: NMCCC All Clubs Picnic, Villanueva State Park.
- August 21-23: Jeeps West invites NM4W to camp, run trails in the Zuni Mountains, share good food and fun. More details to come.
- September 12: Mt. Blanca, near Alamosa CO, led by Mark Wolf. He's going round-trip same day, but others can stay at the lake if desired. Hard trail, scenic area.
- September 25-27, NMCCC swap meet.

- October 3-4: Rock crawling championship near Farmington. Jeff Boggs wants to try some trails in addition to watching the competition.

Program Chairman's Report: Paul Caskey reported that the Zia Graphics' quote was competitive with an out-of-state quote. It was moved, seconded, and approved to buy 3-dozen shirts from Zia Graphics at a cost of \$400. Paul will look into the suggestion of buying hooded sweatshirts. His survey for clothing ideas is still open. So far, he's found that people like t-shirts in a variety of colors and sizes. Paul also sold tickets for the 50/50 raffle.

Historian's Report: Jan Waugh. Not present.

Webmaster & Editor's Report: Glenn said the deadline for Trail Tales submissions will be shifted back to the 25th of the month, publication ~1st of the month for the summer months. Frank will check with the church to see if our regular meeting time (second Thursday) has become available for October and November. If not, the meetings will be the fourth Wednesday (October 28 and November 25). Due to construction, the church had to rearrange the 2009 meeting room schedules.

Director of Environmental Affairs Report: Mark Werkmeister urged members to use May-June for taking USFS staff out on the trails we use and want to keep open. In particular, the USFS needs to be taken on the Caja trail. The Magdalena District "pre" pre-scoping will start in the next few weeks. Russ Kaz will forward to the club an email he got from the Arizona Virtual Jeep Club requesting help. They want four-wheelers to give feedback on a BLM proposal to shut down six trails in Arizona. Russ wasn't sure if Crown King or Florence Junction were included. Many NM4W'ers have enjoyed those trails over the years.

Old Business:

Montessa Park off-highway event. Frank isn't sure if the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division is still holding this on June 27 as previously announced. Montessa Park isn't an area the club uses, but Frank will watch for updates.

New Business:

Food: Glenn made an awesome salsa for the potluck. It was unanimously voted that special recipes be printed in the Trail Tales, starting with Glenn's salsa.

More Food: It was unanimously approved that the club buy the main dish, drinks, and paper products (not to exceed \$200) for the June 13 picnic/meeting.

Jemez Trail Maintenance: Ron Schubert from an ATV club is organizing trail maintenance projects and is looking for some motorized help. In particular, the Los Griegos area (near FR10 and SR4) needs culverts. Glenn volunteered to use his John Deere tractor for the dirt work. Paliza Canyon needs culverts and major dirt work, but Frank thinks heavy-duty equipment will be required for this project. Frank will notify Ron that of the five project dates, September 12 is Glenn's preference (and Glenn has the tractor). This will be a good opportunity for NM4W to team with ATV folks. Frank noted that if anyone knows of an area that needs repair, we should approach the Forest Service with that information.

In closing, Frank asked Glenn to take his '94 Ranger truck off the For Sale list on the web site. It was a bittersweet moment when Frank sold the truck, his first 4x4, and something he'd spent lots of time modifying. But at this point in life, a Ford Flex will prove more family-friendly.

Frank and Beth were thanked for hosting the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. Tony Louderbough won \$25 from the 50/50 Raffle, and somebody won a NM4W 2009 calendar.



President's Report

By Frank G. Whiston

June already! This month, I want to remind everyone that it is not too early to think about paying your annual club dues. Voting members pay \$35.00 and Associate dues are \$17.50. The June and July club meetings are a convenient time to pay your dues. Dues may also be mailed to the club's mailing address (P.O. Box 90154, Albuquerque, NM 87199-0154). Remember, dues are delinquent on the first day of September, and all rights and privileges of membership will end. It is important to get your dues in on time due to the fact that we send an updated roster to SW4WDA in September to ensure that all current NM4W members receive the benefits of membership in that organization, including the subscription to 4WDrivelines. Also, please check the roster on the members' only page to ensure that the information posted there is up-to-date. If you have moved and the roster has not been updated, you will not receive your subscription to 4WDrivelines. Send any corrections to webmaster@nm4w.org and secretary@nm4w.org. See you at the Club Summer Picnic on June 13.

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

Hello everyone!

Two items this month:

1. The Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest has released the [Motor Vehicle Use Map \(MVUM\)](#) for the District. This is significant because the route designations made during the Travel Management planning process are now OFFICIAL. As of now, the only motorized use that is allowed is what is shown on this map. NMOHVA is working to help provide a major amount of trail enhancements in support of these designations, including better signage and a better map. But until then, IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE USER to be in compliance with the map. A copy of the map can be found on the Sandia Ranger District web site at http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/tm_sandia/mvum/sandia_mvum_0509.pdf. You can also pick up a hard copy of the map at the Ranger Station in Tijeras.
2. The Cibola National Forest is also getting ready to kick off the 'pre-scoping' for the Magdalena Ranger District's Travel Management Plans. This is the last of the Cibola National Forest's Districts (Sandia, Mt. Taylor, Mountainair, and Magdalena) to embark on the Travel Management Planning process. The club needs a representative or two to help coordinate and encourage our club's participation in the process. Dr. Bob did a great job on the Mountainair coordination and data collection effort, now it is time for someone else to step up to the plate and lead the effort on the Magdalena District. Why should we care when we haven't historically done much 'wheeling there? There are great routes there! Anybody remember the days of going to "Brady Canyon" in the mid-90's? The Magdalena District may also play a much more important role in the club's future, especially if our use of the Santa Fe National Forest gets curtailed by the ongoing travel management planning there. The more routes we ask for, the more routes there will be in the future. Exploring and mapping the routes in the Magdalena District is also a GREAT opportunity to get out and explore some new areas for the club.

So there you have it - two quick items. Have a happy and productive summer of four wheeling!

Annual Club Picnic & Meeting at Carolino Canyon Park

By Joan Wolf

NM4W picnic/meeting on Saturday, June 13. Area opens at 3:30 p.m. Eat at 5:00 p.m. Meeting follows. This is a beautiful area in the cool pines south of Tijeras, just 20 minutes from I-40 and Tramway (directions below).

Bring a side dish or dessert (**A thru L--dessert; M thru Z--side dish**) and a lawn chair. There are picnic tables--but in case of rain, lawn chairs will ensure getting underneath the picnic shelters.

Club is providing meat (hamburgers and hot dogs), buns, plates, utensils, and drinks. The facility has bathrooms, running water, one electric outlet, horseshoes, and volleyball.

Directions to Carolino Canyon Picnic Area: From I-40 & Tramway, take I-40 east, exit #175 (Tijeras/Cedar Crest/Hwy 337). Turn right (south) onto Hwy 337 and proceed south 9.0 miles (the Oak Flat picnic area is 8.5 miles south, Carolino Canyon is 0.5 miles farther south). Turn left into Carolino Canyon Park, we're the upper picnic area. From I-40 & Tramway, it's a 20-minute drive. No glass allowed. Dogs on leash o.k.

Recipe of the Month: Jennifer's Salsa

By Glenn Bontly

It's been quite a while since we've had a Recipe of the Month submission, so I'm happy to post Jennifer's Salsa Recipe. Jennifer is my boss at work, and she's the one who gave me this recipe, so I can't call it mine. Anyway, her original recipe made over a GALLON of salsa, and that was too much for us to eat in a timely manner, so this recipe is cut in half:

In a small saucepan, bring to a boil:

- 1/4 Cup White Vinegar
- 1/4 Cup Minced Garlic
- 2 Tablespoons Accent Seasoning
- 1/2 Tablespoon Salt

In a food processor, chop:

- 1 Large White Onion
- 6 Fresh Jalapenos (remove all seeds for mild; leave some in for hotter)
- 1/2 Bunch Cilantro

In a really big bowl, combine:

- 1/2 Gallon (or 2 – 28 oz cans) Diced Tomatoes
- All other ingredients above, and mix well

Chill overnight before serving.

Memorial Day Campout and Trail Ride 2009

By Russ Kaz



Greetings all, just wanted to give you a short synopsis of our trip to the Jemez over the Memorial Day weekend. Friday was the start of our long weekend, Glenna and I were both looking forward to sunny days and beautiful weather. NOT, it was totally the opposite. The day started out ok, cloudy but no rain, if only I could get the camper loaded and get the Jeep onto the trailer before it rained. Success! I was feeling pretty good and confident that maybe it was going to be a good day. We headed out of town around 9, roads still dry and light traffic

on 25. As we approached San Ysidro, we could see the dark clouds looming over the mountains and all I could think about was our trip last year... rain and snow, rain and snow, OMG rain and snow. We made it to the campsite relatively unscathed, just a little mud from a previous day's rain. We had staked out a spot the previous week and I pulled the camper in. I had picked an area that wasn't too level, so I spent a good part of an hour trying to get level. No luck! It started to rain and I started to get frustrated. Just then, the Thompson's, Peeple's, and Meier's returned from a ride through Church Canyon. Sensing my frustration, Paul offered some help and Chuck offered some very expensive trail-priced leveling blocks which I gladly allowed him to bill me for. Finally! The camper was level. The flow of rain kept coming, but not the people... where are the people? I started to panic, but then I realized that it was beyond my control. Folks did finally start rolling in and before long our campsite looked like a little RV community. The rain let up around dusk and we all sat around the campfire talking and roasting marshmallows. The rain decided to come back and it rained most of the night and into a good part of Saturday.

We had some more vehicles roll in that morning for the trail ride. All in all, we had 15 rigs on Saturday's ride, a very good turnout for such a miserable day. Paul Thompson led the trail, which took us up around the Peggy Mesa area. The trail for the most part was pretty good until we got into some muddy areas, which was slicker than you know what. The decision was made to turn around as it was thought that it would be difficult to make it past that area for people without lockers. A few adventurous souls decided to try it and all made it. We met them at the top and continued on with our ride. The colors of our surroundings enhanced by the rain were truly awesome. It was time for lunch and Paul had



found a green meadow for us to eat at. As if on cue, the rain stopped and we all got out to eat lunch. It was time to get back on the trail and got back to camp in a timely manner, for Saturday was the day we were having a barbecue. We all made it back to camp safe and sound with our mouths watering for what we were going to be enjoying that evening. The command came down to "light the coals"; the coals were lit, but not getting hot, they needed more air. To our rescue, Pat Brady, flapping like a one winged chicken, was able to get the coals going. Our cook for the evening was former member Berrett

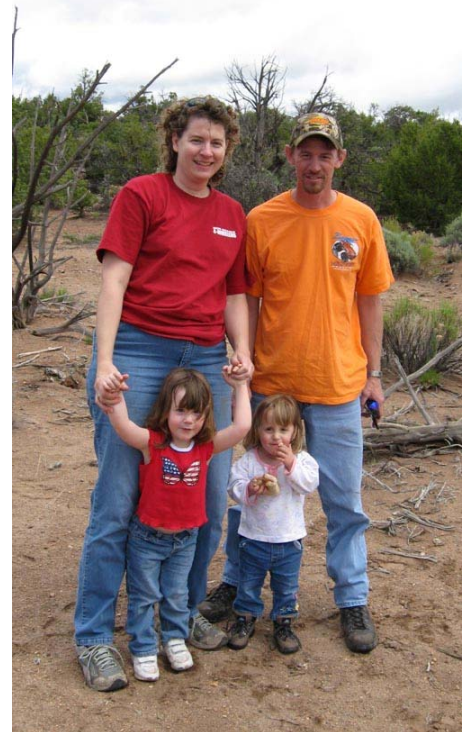
Harrison, who had driven up/over from Clovis for the weekend. On the menu... pork ribs, beef brisket, and all the side dishes that members and guests brought. What a feast! If you weren't there, you weren't living. The meat just fell off the bones and the brisket was perfect. Hats off to Berrett for such a great job of cooking. Also, I'd like to thank Tom Hurt for blessing the meal and praying for our service men and women past and present. After we all filled our bellies to max capacity, we retired to the campfire for some more talk and marshmallow roasting. It was a long day and most of us retired to our sleeping quarters early.



What would day 2 have in store for us, would it be rainy, sunny, or both? We had a couple more rigs show up for Sunday's run up to Cat Mesa. We hit the trail with 19 rigs, led by Jeff Boggs. We entered the trail in Canon and took us through a residential area. Once we got past the houses, we started our ascent up the mesa, traversing back and forth on a switch back road. The view of the mountains and valley was spectacular. The weather was fantastic that day, just enough cloud cover to keep the heat down. Once on top of the mesa, we arrived at our first obstacle, just a few rocks with a little dirt berm. When Jeff, Paul, Chuck, and myself pre-ran this trail, we tested

this obstacle and all made it over okay. I thought to myself that people would find it too easy and just drive over it. Nope, didn't happen that way, I guess with the rain and such it made it harder for the wheels to grip and truly made this a challenging obstacle. With everyone up and over, we continued on the trail. What a contrast of scenery to the East of Hwy 4 as opposed to the West side. On the East side you have junipers and pinons, and on the West side you have ponderosas, both areas in their own way beautiful. After a few more little obstacles, we stopped and had lunch in an area that had shade (if you wanted) or nice sunny exposure. We once again hit the trail and came to a play area where you could take several options to get up the hill; a majority of us took the direct way. It was only Pat who wanted to climb up and over a giant boulder; would have made it too, if he only had a few more inches of clearance. Valor getting the best of him, Pat decided to go the way of the others. I wish I could say that I didn't have problems traversing some of the obstacles, but alas I did. It would have been nice to have a locker in the front and then maybe I wouldn't have had Pat tormenting me by waving a strap in front of me. We finally made it to the top of the trail and hit the main road for the trip back to camp. It had been a long day and thought that most would be upset, but it was totally the opposite. I was told by most that they had never been on that trail and how much they enjoyed their day. Kudos to Jeff for taking us on this trail. Back at camp, some folks had to pack up and head home; we bid them farewell and then quickly wrapped the ribs in foil and put them on the fire to warm them up. Ribs always taste better the second day.

Monday, 7 rigs took off for the annual run to see the log skidder, which was left in place after logging of the Jemez was ceased. Some folks believe that the rig has been in the mountains since the 40's. The day was great, sunny and warm, and the roads not dusty. Our first stop was the waterfall in Joaquin Valley; a great place for photo opps. We then took the trail towards the skidder, stopping just at the base of the climb for a short break. Since it had rained, we had no idea what the hill would be like, so I went on ahead to



check it out. The climb was great; it was almost like it had not rained. We all made it to the top and spent about 45 minutes looking at and talking about the skidder. The only one and most important thing missing was our fearless story teller, Chuck. Just wasn't the same not having Chuck sitting up on the seat where the operator would sit to load logs telling us stories about the logging operations. After everyone looked at the skidder and took their pictures (by the way... no one touched the steering wheel), we all headed down to the logging camp to eat lunch. We headed back to camp to load up to make the trip back home to reality. I want to thank everyone who made this weekend possible...

The Thompson's - For reserving our campsite and trail leading
The People's - For reserving our campsite and trail gunning
The Meier's - For reserving our campsite
Paul Caskey - For pulling the portable BBQ trailer behind his Jeep
Jeff Boggs - For trail leading
Tom Hurt - For the inspirational blessing
Berrett -- For cooking a wonderful dinner
The club - For approving the purchase of the meat
All the members and guests who braved the weather, without you I'd have a mess load of ribs in my freezer! Thanks again to all, I enjoyed doing this.

Russ

Little Wins and Rays of Hope

By Del Albright, BlueRibbon Coalition

I've discovered there are "phases" in this off-road life we all love so much, especially if you are in the game of fighting for trails and riding areas. Like a lot of other things in life, it appears there are steps we go through - kind of like losing someone - withdrawal, denial, anger, and resentment. I've been through it all at one time or another. But the little wins and the rays of hope are what keep me going. Allow me to share with you how that hope and light can help you as well.

I've been assisting a lot of folks lately with club elders, conflict in clubs, as well as personalities and infighting. But hey, the fact that I'm being asked to help tells me SOMEONE is doing something or trying to do something about it. The fact that folks are asking for help means these things are being brought out into the open so they can be FIXED. Yup! Fixed! ☺

Even better, I've been asked more often than ever about the advanced steps for getting in the game and saving trails. Folks are ready to do more; save more trails; and fight harder. Now more than ever is a great time for this to happen.

But on the down side, over the last couple of decades I've noticed some trends and phases with folks trying to do land use and access work. I think by sharing this, perhaps you'll see where you are and what you might want to do to avoid burn out or dropping out.

Here are the "phases" I've noticed (and that we can prevent).

First, the **awakening** happens and folks see a bleak future. Then **enthusiasm** kicks in full throttle to make some sort of changes. Over a period of struggles, the fuel supply does not match the throttle and **disappointment** starts to pull things down. Of course, when you lead, there are always folks who do not like your leading, so infighting and back-stabbing might happen that causes **frustration** to ride

shotgun with you. Finally, the white flag goes up, you're glad there's someone else in the game still fighting, and you phase out or **disappear**.

We must stop this disappearing act!

A lot of folks wake up one day, see a new gate, and start jumping in with both feet. Unfortunately, we lose these warriors because they are not totally prepared for battle. Armies win wars based on intelligence, supplies, and dedicated, well-trained soldiers equipped with the right gear. In the OHV world, we have to do the same thing in order to prevent the "phases" from dragging us down.

We can prevent this ugly formula from happening. Here are my suggestions based on my talking to and helping folks all over the country (for longer than I care to remember).

Battle Plan #1 - Get Healthy: Spend the time and effort to get yourself "healthy" in the land use game so you can help others. [Learn the ropes; get some training](#); read the land use forums; and get a grasp on the big picture and what it means locally to you. Of course, this implies you are a member of every organization you think can help (like your state association and the [BlueRibbon Coalition](#)).

Battle Plan #2 - Avoid Booby Traps: Avoid the booby traps and pitfalls. Make note of the ugly formula above, and do everything in your power to not let this happen to you as you find yourself walking through land use minefields now and then. Land use and access issues have their share of controversy, but we can't let this eat us up.

We can use this controversy to our advantage. Heck, nothing wakes up an online forum like a new gate, an unexpected trail closure, or some yo-yo from our esteemed government acting like they own our public lands and professing that locking us out is a good thing. That's when you kick into "full steam ahead" gear -- when controversy rears up -- and use it as a platform for motivating others to [join up](#), get in the game, learn more about access, and become better soldiers. It's never too late.

Battle Plan #3 - Market the Rays of Hope: Publicize and market every little ray of hope or win that comes along. Post on forums; share with your club; tell people of the little wins so they don't lose hope. Find a way to be the light in the dark closet, even if you're only a small flashlight in a big dark room. Even that much light can make the difference.

The bottom line is that we spin-positive the little wins and rays of hope so our folks don't get too discouraged give up and get gone. We need an Army to win this war, and WE are the Army. Let's not lose any more soldiers.

Contact Del Albright at brdel@sharetrails.org. The BlueRibbon Coalition is a national recreation group that champions responsible recreation, and encourages individual environmental stewardship. It represents over 10,000 individual members and 1,200 organization and business members, for a combined total of over 600,000 recreationists nationwide. 1-800-258-3742. www.sharetrails.org



For Sale



Parting Out A 2004 Jeep Rubicon: My Silver 2004 Jeep Rubicon was recently hit from the passenger rear quarter panel and totaled. Am looking to part it out. I am keeping the bumpers, lift, wheels, and tires and transferring them onto my newer Jeep. What's available is the engine with 49,000 miles; transmission (Standard); transfer case (original gears); front axle; rear axle (damage to the passenger side - don't know if there was damage to the ring and pinion); hood, doors, and tailgate (are all in perfect shape); interior (driver seat seems to be bent - don't know if it is just the brackets that got bent); hard top (cracked in two places above back window and small amount of damage to passenger bottom corner- repair man said it was fixable); stock wheels and tires off of 2005 Rubicon with 11,000 miles; stock front and back bumpers off of 2005 Rubicon (new condition). If anyone is interested please call Carrie Phillips at 610-5663.

For more stuff for sale, please visit our web site at 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.

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 stating that you do not need to receive the hard copy of the newsletter. Thanks for your cooperation.

Submission Due Date: Now that we are on our summer schedule, with meetings normally the 2nd Saturday of each month, **due date for newsletter submissions will return to the 25th of each month**, with publication around the 1st of each month. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Jun 13	Club Meeting at Carolino Caynon	Call Joan Wolf	505-856-8539
Jul 3-11	Colorado Trip	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541
Aug 9	NMCCC All Clubs Picnic at Villanueva State Park	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-6547
Aug 21-23	Zuni Mountain Campout with Jeeps West	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541
Sep 12-13	Mt. Blanca Trip	Call Mark Wolf	505-856-8539

NM4W Officers

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Trip Chairman Russ Kaz 991-0323 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!

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