



# Trail Tales



January 1, 2006

The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From December 10, 2005

by Lauri Rector



Meeting was held at the lovely home of Phil & Ilene Rodacy. Their hospitality was fabulous and we want to give them a big THANK YOU!!!

Mark Werkmeister called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm, after tracking down the secretary and waiting for her to get set up.

**Guests:** Deborah Marchi - 2001 Toyota Tacoma, Ron Hyman - 87 Samari, Chris & Andrea Michel - 04 Grand Cherokee.

**Members Present:** Bontly, Brady, Capener, Collins, Duggar, Eklund, Kausche, Marx, Lavy, Ohnesorg/Coe, Rector, Rodacy, Sierra, Simenson, Tanner, Thompson, Turpin, Werkmeister, Whiston Sr, Whiston Jr, Wolf.

**Secretary's Report – Lauri Rector:** This is to be a very short meeting. There wasn't any discussion about reading of last month's minutes. Everybody wanted to get through it and on to the gift exchange.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** We have \$2,679.50 in the bank.

**Vice President's Report – Jeff Rector:** Nothing.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy:** Upcoming Events: Gordy's Hill on New Year's weekend. Stock-to-extreme trails are available.

Chile Challenge in February. Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> through Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. There are usually about 350 vehicles.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Bob Norton:** Not present.

**Program Chairman's Report – Leon Duggar:** Leon is stepping down from this position and Jerry Marx wants to fill in. Leon finally has some raffle tickets for the Chile Challenge, which is known for having very good prizes. Normally these tickets are sent out a lot earlier. Last year, there was \$17,000 worth of prizes raffled off. Tickets are only \$1 apiece and you do not have to be present to win. He doesn't even need for you to pay him for them tonight. You can also sell tickets to other people – friends, relatives, neighbors. If you know a business that would want to donate something, please have them contact Leon. Leon then read off the list of most of the items that have been donated to the raffle so far.

**Historian's Report – Laurie Tanner:** If you plan to e-mail her pictures, call her first and she can turn on her computer and go do something else while the pictures download. Send her stuff even if it's stuff from earlier in the year.

**Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Nothing

**Old Business:** Summer Quarterly. Need a volunteer to head up the organization of committees for food, catered dinner, port-a-Broncos (I mean, "potties"—sorry), and a place to camp and have dinner. Need to think of a place that would have room for camping and a selection of trails. New Mexico really doesn't have anything to offer. Colorado has the most to offer. Salida and Fairplay have been done the last 2 time (2002 and 2004). The last time we had it in Silverton was in 1995. There were several offers from club members to help out on the committee, but no one was volunteering to head up any committee. Wolfie

volunteered to oversee all of the committees, but he will not be able to serve on a committee. He will have presidential duties of SWFWDA to attend to during the event. Anyone wanting to help has been asked to go see Wolfie after the meeting.

**New Business:** Laurye suggested doing a photo directory on the club web site. People could either send pictures to Laurye or Glenn. Glenn recommended posting the pictures on the Member's Only Page, not the public page. Pat Brady wanted to know why we didn't get to vote on the photos that were being shown on the DVD slide show tonight? Laurye will take off weight and wrinkles, but the person must make a donation to the club.

Wolfie asked that the club make a \$300 donation to the Road Runner Food Bank. This will be the only Christmas community project that the club does this year. Motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Joan Wolf thanked our hosts.

Afterwards, we had our annual gift exchange. We sorted the gifts on two tables, one for the guys and one for the ladies. Things got to be very interesting when Jason Lavy took the lady's present that Lauri Rector had, a deck of Jeep cards. And became even more funny when Barbara Marx took the ratchet straps – was it Pat Brady that had those? Jeff Rector had tried and tried to give away a brush (tooth?, vegetable?, wheel?) for most of the evening. He all the sudden was in luck as Justin Simenson had the last number and the last present was on the lady's table. Justin decided that the brush was a much better present than the unwrapped unknown upon the Lady's gift table. Jeff happily walked away with last present, which was a very nice set of dish towels.

**Future Four Wheeler**  
Submitted by Laurye Tanner

On behalf of proud parents Karen (Paul & Mary's daughter) and her husband Mike, and equally proud grandparents Paul and Mary Thompson; Holiday

Greetings from Baytown, Texas where **Katy Brooke Barger** arrived on 15 Dec, weighing in at 9 lbs 3 oz, and measuring 20½".



**Sagebrush Flats Trash Pickup**  
by Mark Wolf (alias Wolfie)

On November 19<sup>th</sup>, 12 vehicles showed up at the Conoco on 528/550 for a day of scenic four wheeling and trash pickup on the Sage Brush Flats Loop Trail. Members present were, Glenn Bontly (TJ), Paul & Mary Thompson (Rubicon), Erwin Grevin (TJ), Cliff Meier (TJ), Mark Berglund (TJ), Ed & Lynn Kausche (TJ), Mary Turpin with daughter Hannah and Hannah's friend Amanda Newell (Rubicon), Phil Rodacy (Rubicon), and of course my wife Joan and I (Jeepster). Visitors were Doug Pannell (TJ), Chris & Andrea Michel (WJ), Jerry & Mary Moran (Unlimited Rubicon), and Glenn's friends Pat & Jan Montano. We pulled out at about 9:05 am and headed for Santa Fe. The weather was beautiful and sunny. All we had to deal with was dust (which is a lot better than mud according to Glenn!).

We aired down our tires and headed out for a day of fun and trash pickup. We went through the cattle corral and there we found lots of trash. That was just a start. Up "Tom's Hill" (all made it easily) and over to the trailhead. We again ran it backwards as that is the best way (I like going up hills). We traveled down the trail a short ways and decided to stop to pick up trash. Mary's daughter



Hannah and her friend Amanda were quite the trash pickers! They were making a game of it and wow!, they picked up a lot of stuff. Everyone participated in this effort and we stopped two more times before heading down to the lunch stop (overlook to Los Alamos and Whiterock). It was a great view. Once again, I tried to talk to all of the visitors, but am sure I missed a few. Sorry, I tried, but I like to talk a lot (ask anyone who knows me!).

After about an hour, we again headed up the trail. I stopped just after the rock garden to make sure that all of the vehicles made it through fine, and they did. Chris Michel was driving a stock WJ and is a good driver. He had no problems with this rock garden at all! We picked up some more trash and then headed down the trail again. As I went down the hill to the long meadow, I ran into a tree blocking the trail. We had run into one before, but simply pulled out of the way by hand. Not this one! I had to pull it out of the way with my Jeepster. Seems like a lot of trees died over the year as they were lying every where.

We kept up a steady pace and stopped a couple more times to pickup some more trash. I think those girls gave up on trash pickup for the last couple of stops, but they did a great job that day! We all got back to the air up spot at about 3:40 pm. Those who had air shared with those that didn't and everyone got their tires up and ready for travel down the road. We broke up at that point and headed our separate ways. It was a fun day and the weather was gorgeous. I hope to get back there this spring sometime and see how dirty things get. It seems that most of trash we picked up was really old. That's a good thing. I would like to thank those that came along and enjoyed their day. No one had any problems that I'm aware of and the guests had a good time. I believe everyone was made to feel welcome, something the NM4Ws do well and makes me proud to be a part of.

### **Quote of the Month**

by Glenn Bontly

This month's quote is another one of my smart-alecky comments, from one of our trips down to

Gordy's Hill back in November. Werkmeister was there with the "Itch" and its 42"(?) tires. Jeff Rector was there with his new 40" MT/Rs. And then there was Brady, with his "little" 37s. While Jeff and I were watching Pat unload his Jeep from his trailer, I whispered to Jeff (just loud enough for Pat to hear me):

**"Hey Jeff, look how small those tires are."**

Pat looked at me and said, . . . On second thought, I better not print it here!

### **SWFWDA Summer Quarterly** by Wolfie

The NM4Wheelers are hosting this year's Summer Quarterly, 27 – 29 Jul 2006 in the Silverton/Ouray, CO area. This will make it easy for folks to attend both our event and Mile High Jeep Club's "All-for-Fun", and offers a variety of trails. I need volunteers to fill the following positions:

Facilities Committee; Food Committee; Restroom Committee; Registration Committee; and Trails Committee.

Each of these committees will be responsible for organizing the logistics of these items. I will oversee the organization to be sure we cover all bases. You can get help from whomever and from as many people you want. If you want to help, but are unsure of what capacity, please respond with an e-mail that you would like to help. Each of these committees will require multiple volunteers to be sure we have enough to put on an organized event.

I had several people come up to me at the Christmas party, but I can't remember all of them. Please respond with an e-mail or phone call to let me know you are interested in helping. Also, please understand that help at the event is also needed and it goes beyond what these committees provide. For instance, we will need multiple trail leaders and tail gunners to be sure we have all bases covered. Also, registration at the event is necessary as many are not sure they're coming until the last minute. We need to come up with a fee for this event ASAP to

allow Bob Norton to post in the 4WDrive Lines for the members of SWFWDA, along with the registration form that Glenn Bontly has so graciously offered to recreate from past events.

Thanks for each of your assistance in making this a well organized event. I look forward to attending!

Mark Wolf



- **Warn MI8000 Winch** with new cable, rarely used, \$500. Call Marcia or Leon at 505-286-8136.

- **1997 Jeep Wrangler (TJ) Sahara**, White with Spice hardtop, 4.0L Auto, AC, PB, PS, AM/FM/CD, 68K miles. Extras: 3" Tera Flex lift, 33" BFG All Terrain, Currie-built Ford rear axle with high pinion, 4:88 gears, ARB lockers F&R, full skid pans end to end, Durango bumpers and rocker skids, Winch plate, Deep trans pan, Dual Optima Batteries, Kilby on board air with tank, CB radio, \$12,500. Call Dixon Patrick at 505-401-0344.

- **For sale or parting out:** 1968 Commando front (Dana 27A) and rear (Dana 30) diffs, 3.73 gears, cheap! Bellhousing, AMC engine (including 4.0L) to GM SM-420 transmission, new, never used, complete kit from Advance Adapters, \$385. Also, new, never used, Centerforce II pressure plate for 80-86 AMC, hydraulic clutch and pressure plate that fits the GM transmission, \$175. These items were purchased for a project that never materialized. T-14 transmission and Dana 20 transfer case in good condition, \$150. Call Wolfie at 505-856-8539.

- **TJ Stuff:** Rubicon express 5.5" long arm kit complete with shocks, springs, bar pin eliminators, extended sway bar links and flat bottom belly-pan,

\$1300 OBO. Complete Dana 30 with ARB and a Dana 35 open carrier for TJ's with 4.56 gears, \$700 OBO. Dana 60 rear housing custom built by Wagoner Machine shop- Dynatrac lo-pinion center section, 9" axle tubes and Dana 70 8-lug spindles and hubs. Estimated mounting width (WMS-WMS) of 65", \$500 OBO. Contact Dave Trappett at 505-615-5942.

- **Hi-Lift Jack & Camping Stuff:** 4-foot Hi-Lift Jack, \$25. Front seat from an '82 CJ-7, \$20. Camping stove, \$15. Lantern with carrying case, \$15. Contact Glenn Capener at 505-344-2656.

- **Steering, Fuel Tank, Tranny:** Redneck RAM steering box, \$250. Metal reinforced racing Toyota fuel tank, crash/impact resistant, \$100. Toyota 1988 G52 5-speed transmission, excellent condition, \$300. Ford Expedition or F-150 front tow hooks, \$30 pair, new. Contact Corey Ford at 505-249-5627 or 505-299-8313.

- **4.0 liter engine**, out of 1988 Cherokee, high mileage (198k), \$250. AW4 four-speed automatic also high mileage (includes flexplate and converter), \$300. Package deal! Aforementioned engine and transmission together with complete wiring harness and computer, \$500. Swap the whole shebang into the vehicle of your choice! Also lots of other odds and ends from 1988 Cherokee Laredo. Gather an armload and make me a (really cheap) offer. Contact Mark at 505-891-0296.

- **Jeep TJ Stuff:** Bestop Trail Cover for 97-04 TJ, Spice color, like new \$60; OEM security trunk \$40. Contact Brad at 505-858-0832.

**For more Classified Ads,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.nm4w.org/wanted-for\\_sale.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/wanted-for_sale.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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of Trail Tales is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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, 21 Rattlesnake Ridge, Tijeras, NM 87059.

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 <a href="mailto:president@nm4w.org">president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Jeff Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:vice-president@nm4w.org">vice-president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:secretary@nm4w.org">secretary@nm4w.org</a>
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<b>Trip Chairman</b> Jason Lavy 792-8035 <a href="mailto:trip-chairman@nm4w.org">trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <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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February 1, 2006

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## Meeting Minutes

From January 12, 2006

by Lauri Rector



Our first meeting of the new year was held in the Mid-High room at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church. It was standing room only at one point. But luckily, Chuck found some chairs in the corner and everyone got settled into a seat. Mark Werkmeister said that he was calling the meeting to order at 7:00 sharp, but it more like 7:03 by my computer, for the sake of keeping things official and all.

**Guests:** Rance Cochrane-Jeep Wrangler YJ; Brian Dejarnett-Toyota 4-Runner; Jim & Debbie Farrell-Jeep Rubicon; Mike Gonzales-Jeep Cherokee XJ; Tom Phillips-Jeep Wrangler TJ; Ron Hyman-Suzuki Samurai; Debra Marchi-Toyota Tacoma; Keith & Linda Jurey-Jeep Wrangler TJ; Robert Gill-Jeep Cherokee XJ; and Jerry & Mary Moran-Jeep Rubicon.

**Members Present:** At least one each from the families of Abbate, Berglund, Bontly, Brady, Chapin, Duggar, Eklund, Gjerner, Greven, Juarez, Lavy, Norton, Ohnesorg/Coe, Peeples, Rector, Rodacy, Telepak, Thompson, Turpin, Werkmeister, Whiston (Jr), Wolf, Woodard.

**Secretary – Lauri Rector:** Why is it that no one will let me read the meeting minutes? I'm a very good reader and some of you could probably use a 5 or 10 minute nap before we get down to business. Please give this a good long thought before you vote this down at next month's meeting. I reminded everyone in attendance to be sure and note their presence on the appropriate sign-in sheet. I also had a print-out of the members' points-to-date (being

the computer genius that I am) so they could check that out after the meeting if they wanted to.

**Treasurer – Paul Thompson:** We have \$2,410.79 in the bank. We donated \$200 to Road Runner Food Bank and they sent the club a note of thanks.

**Vice President – Jeff Rector:** He said that he had no fines, but there were several members that objected to this, seeing as the Sheriff had a major break on the last club run. Just to fill you in on some of the highlights of the inconvenience that this break caused to the other trail riders: Jeff had to winch onto Pat to get pulled over the obstacle and then have Pat hook up the tow strap to get Jeff up a very steep hill. This only worked half-way; Pat had to unhook, drive to the top of the hill and then Jeff had to winch onto him again. Jeff was able to drive all the way back to the staging/camping area on his own. He fined himself a nickel for this major break on the New Years Day run, which was probably the difference between Pat's u-turn fines and Jeff's fines. I tried to argue that he wouldn't have broken if Pat and Mark hadn't encouraged him to "load-up" the Torque Converter. Mike Coe then commented that it "unloaded" in the rear end. Jeff then remembered, with the help of others, that Wolfie was late to the New Years Day trail run that he was leading! (And luckily, I never heard Wolfie try to blame Joan for his tardiness). Not only that, but this was going to be his first time driving most of these trails, and he didn't even have a map! Luckily, Glenn had one to give to him. Wolfie left a lot of people standing around that morning worrying about what we were going to do that day if he didn't show up – NOT!!!

**Trip Chairman – Jason Lavy:** Past Trail Rides: New Year's Day run at Gordy's Hill, or the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual NM4W New Year's Eve Bash. (I liked the name Mark Werkmeister gave it while sitting

around the camp fire on New Year's Eve "NM4W's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Rock'n Roll New Year's Eve Run"). We had great weather on Saturday. Pat Brady led the "really big tire" group (37's and up). Wolfie led everyone else. Heath's Sammy had a smoking clutch, but his lockers helped him get through the day. This group's trail had neat topography and some old homesteads. We had a good bonfire on New Year's Eve and a killer pot luck (especially for those of us who happened to get the hotter peppers in the stuffed pepper dish that Kristy and Mike brought). Most of us celebrated the Nova Scotia New Year, which occurs at 9:00 pm Socorro time, and that was better suited for the majority of the group. I heard that there were only 4 people up at 10:00 pm, but they all headed to their camper shortly after.

Upcoming Events: Frank G. Whiston will be leading a day ride to Gordy's Hill on Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. This will be for the "tweeners" (this is a newly coined term and I have high ambitions that I can be a part of this group some day), those that have 33" to 35" tires. Meet at staging area at Gordy's Hill at 9:00 am (and I'm sure that Frank will be on time – unlike Wolfie).

**Chile Challenge!!!!** This is SWFWDA's winter quarterly meeting and is on February 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> (4 whole days!!!). There are usually about 300 vehicles in attendance (which makes for 600+ people). Lots of trails to choose from for each day and they range in ratings from easy to extreme.

Cliff Meier will lead some moderate trails in Las Cruces from March 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> for those who can't make the Chile Challenge, or who just want to go again. He will lead trails for 33" tires or smaller.

Chuck Peeples is planning a tentative run in the Jemez this Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Conoco at 550 & 528 at 9:00 am. He will send an e-mail to everyone the afternoon of Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> to confirm (since this is being written after the run – I would like to let everyone know that Chuck was able to lead the run!!!). If Chuck isn't able to do the run, Ron Hyman would like to have a back-up run to Cedro Peak. Meet at the Ranger Station at 9:00 am.

**Director of Environmental Affairs – Bob Norton:** Tellico OHV Area; Forest Service is proposing restrictions which would limit use or close trails. Comment period ends on 1/13/05. Go to [sharetrails.org](http://sharetrails.org) and choose to accept some alternatives. We need to try to get some comments to them. This is an excellent off-road area (Jeff and I have been wheeling out there many times while we lived in Virginia and it does have lots of awesome trails and is well used by lots of different OHV groups and people). In Colorado, the Continental Divide Scenic Trail is being discussed as changing to a hiking trail only, no motorized vehicles will be allowed. OHV organizations suggest separating trails between motorized and non-motorized. The comments period on this ends 1/17/05. Brian Hawthorne with the Blue Ribbon Coalition has been in New Mexico all week meeting with BLM and various other people for the OHV coalition. Several land activists from all over New Mexico met and discussed off-road activities in New Mexico. We need to try to "shake hands" with more coalition people so that we have a better opportunity to voice our suggestions. It was suggested by Joanne Spivack that areas south of Mountainair be opened up. Mark Werkmeister reported that the NM OHV Alliance had a board meeting last Monday evening with Brian Hawthorne. Brian feels strongly that New Mexico is underrepresented in off-road recreation, considering the opportunities in the state. Mark said that we have very organized groups in our various sports and recreation in the state. The NMOHVA is very young and was formed to be an umbrella alliance for all types of off-road activities and groups.

Bob Telepak talked about the "Taking Liberty" article in Range Magazine. Google search Range Magazine Fall 2005 – Taking Liberty if you want to read it. It talks about the Wildlands Project, which wants all people to live in less than 1% of the land. The rest of the land would be wilderness. Government is also a part with their Gap Analysis Project. This project wants all of the National Parks, Monuments, and Nature Preserves connected to each other with wilderness. It wants to find the gaps and fill them in. Dr. Bob believes that this is a very factual article and several people agreed. Every time a resource plan comes out from the



BLM, it proposes areas to be accessed only by hikers & horseback riders. Resource Management Plans – part of the plan on what should be closed. These people are infiltrating in all kinds of ways – 2001 in the Klamath Basin of south-central Oregon, they shut down farms for the endangered sucker fish. Agricultural irrigation of the Klamath Lake was lost and farmers went out of business and the area turned into a dust bowl. This doesn't mean that there has to be an endangered species living there, just be a habitat that an endangered species could exist and survive in. In rural Utah, spotted owls were brought in just so that they could say that there are owls here and then they were able to get the area closed down. They moved the owls from area to area that they wanted closed down. These owls ended up dying from all of this moving around! (now how many of us are running out right now to sign up to be involved with a group like this?) Only congress can make wilderness areas, not the president, not the BLM, and not other various groups.

Mark Werkmeister brought up that we do not have an assigned delegate for the SWFWDA and we need for someone to step up and volunteer to represent the Club at the Winter Quarterly meeting. We could vote on it next month.

**Program Chairman – Jerry Marx:** Not Present, no raffle tonight.

**Historian – Laurye Tanner:** Not Present

**Webmaster & Editor – Glenn Bontly:** Nothing to report.

**Old Business:** The Club is hosting the Summer Quarterly 2006 in the Ouray/Silverton, CO area.. Mark Wolf said that we should have the specific location by next month's meeting. The trails are starting to be selected. The date has been set for July 27 - 29<sup>th</sup>; the All-4-Fun event ends just a day before the Summer Quarterly starts.

**New Business:** Mark Werkmeister was contacted by Robert Auge about co-hosting the 4X4 101 around the 1<sup>st</sup> of April. Wolfie made a motion that we agree to do it again this year. And his motion was seconded. Werkmeister explained to our guests

and new members what the 4X4 101 was all about. We do seminars on basic 4-wheeling (tires, getting unstuck, lockers). Then we take participants through an obstacle course in new Jeeps and Trucks that are supplied by Auge's. Then we can play (and get strapped in my case) afterwards in our own Jeeps. You can read more about this in April and May Trail Tails in 2004 and 2005.

Leon Duggar volunteered and was voted to be SWFWDA delegate at the Chile Challenge. I did challenge his ability to be awake and at the meeting by 7:00am. He took offense to this!?!?

Mike Coe asked about having a club garage sale this spring. He was thinking sometime around this 1<sup>st</sup> of April, until we voted on doing the 4X4 101. Please think of dates for a vote at next month's meeting. I think that I heard Mike volunteer Kristy Ohnesorg's house for the location.

Jeff Rector (our lack luster sheriff) announced that we have guests present at the meeting that are eligible to be voted in: Ron Hyman was the 1<sup>st</sup> victim. We also agreed that we could vote in Jim & Debbie Farrell, even though there are related to Chuck Peeples. Both were voted in with lots of applause and welcomes. Paul Thompson, our club Treasurer, loudly announced the amount of dues that they owed and asked them to promptly give him their checks (I hear that on Sunday he will be doing a lot of modifications to Mary's new Rubicon – check him out at the Chile Challenge to see what mods these dues paid for).

Mark Werkmeister (who did not realize that the trip part of the meeting has long passed) wants to lead a work weekend at Gordy's Hill on February 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, which should work our great since Jeff Rector's Jeep will still be in the garage waiting for the new 60 rear axle. Meet at the staging area at Gordy's Hill at 9:00 am both mornings.

Leon discussed (i.e., peddled) raffle tickets for the Chile Challenge. "Amazing" and "Awesome" are the words to describe the 4x4 prizes that are given away in this raffle. Literally thousands of dollars worth of needed and wanted 4X4 goodies. Only \$1 per ticket and you don't have to be present to win, and you don't have to pay until you fill out the

tickets and give them back to him (mail or meet him in town or bring to next meeting) Name and phone # with area code is all that is needed on the stub. What more could a 4X4 enthusiast ask for (other than to have his ticket stub drawn at the raffle)?

Mark Werkmeister thanked our hosts for the evening – Craig and Mary Turpin.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

No 50/50 drawing.



### **President's Report** By Mark Werkmeister

Greetings from the shop of the President! Yes, it's that time of year when the club starts counting down the days left to the Chile Challenge and club members are frantically making those last minute upgrades needed for a successful appearance at the SWFWDA quarterly. Are you listening Jeff and Lauri? I expect that the club will once again have one of the strongest club representations at the annual bash down south. Don't forget to sell those SWFWDA raffle tickets! In addition to having a large number of club members in attendance, the club also has the reputation for selling lots and lots of tickets to help support our association. And, considering how this increases our odds of winning, club members have walked away with some of the major prizes on more than one occasion.

My latest shop time actually has been to get the crawler ready for a trip to Gordy's Hill. In fact, the club has two trips coming up in the near future. Frank "Jeep, not Bronco" Whiston is leading a "tweener" run down there on Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, and the "big tires" and friends will be working on more new routes on the weekend of Feb 4-5<sup>th</sup>. We will try to have everyone home in time for the Super Bowl on the 5<sup>th</sup>, but the competition between rock and machine is bound to be epic. Who can tell how if the Steeler-Seahawk tilt will live up to its billing? I also plan to head down to Socorro on Feb 1<sup>st</sup> for the grand opening festivities for the BLM's new office location. Joanne Spivack, President of NMOHVA, and I plan on presenting the Nambe platter to Mike

Bilbo that NM4W and NMOHVA purchased. If anyone is interested in helping me represent the club at the grand opening/presentation, please let me know.

Keep on wrenching!

Mark

### **Member Spotlight:** **Justin Simenson** by Joan Wolf



As a new Jeep owner and new NM4W member, Justin is just getting started at four-wheeling. At age 22 and brimming with enthusiasm, he's got many more years of wheeling ahead. Justin went to Silverton with the club in September and loved it all—the scenery, terrain, camaraderie, and ambiance (uh oh, Wolfie will be pulling out his Redneck Dictionary for that word). Justin bought a t-shirt with the Silverton/Ouray trail checklist. After running Black Bear and Imogene with the club, he checked off two trails and vows to do them all!

Justin was introduced to four-wheeling as a kid. His dad packed up the family and camping gear into his Cherokee Chief and off they'd go exploring New Mexico. Dad's favorite spot was the Jemez where they ventured down many, many Forest Service roads. Even as a youngster, Justin loved maps and was ready to go down any road to see

where it led. Sadly, shortly after Justin turned 18, his father passed away. But he'd instilled a love of camping and the outdoors that has stayed with Justin.

In October 2004 Justin bought his 2005 Jeep TJ Rubicon brand new. The salesperson didn't even know there was one on the lot until Justin told him. After a short test drive, he signed the papers. The first accessory added was a CB so he could enjoy the banter as well as trail information that's part of every NM4W run. After denting his oil pan on the Hidden Valley trail at Gordy's Hill, Justin added skid plates. In the near future he wants to add a sway bar disconnect and a transmission cooler. Farther down the line will come a 4" long-arm suspension lift and 35" tires.



To support his Jeep cause, Justin works as AutoCAD Technician/Digital Imagery Manager at Isaacson & Arfman, a small consulting engineering firm. After earning a Computer Aided Design (CAD) certificate from TVI, Justin has continued with engineering studies at UNM. His goal is to graduate in Civil Engineering and get his Professional Engineer (P.E.) stamp. The company is supportive of this goal by allowing him time off for school. He's getting real-world experience by helping to design and draw plans for roads, subdivisions, utility lines, and even a transformer for a windmill farm.

A big sports fan, Justin has played baseball, football, and ice hockey. Then his brother got him interested in golf. Justin thought the most unlikely golf player in the world would be his brother and he'd be second. Now they're both hooked on

hitting that little round ball. Justin also enjoys photography and has become the official photographer at family and company events.

Justin grew up 10 miles northeast of Placitas, an area vacant then, but now packed with houses. His mother is a tattoo artist and owns the "Grin & Bear It" shop in Bernalillo. (I understand that Glenn Bontly recently acquired some of her artwork on one of his arms.) Justin's sister lives in Albuquerque and his brother lives in Minnesota. Justin actually lived in Thief River Falls, MN his senior year of high school. He loved riding snowmobiles and quads in Minnesota, but New Mexico is home.

Black Bear is Justin's favorite trail so far. He was overwhelmed by the scenery, and relieved that the heights didn't bother him since he has a fear of heights and hates ladders. Justin has helped on several trail-building trips to Gordy's Hill. The Hidden Valley trail is another favorite because "it's moderate, has lots of rocks, and is technical." At the New Year's trip, Justin was the first to arrive, so rather than take a nap, he picked up trash in the staging area (how impressive is that for a 22-year old?).

An avowed non-joiner, Justin says NM4W is the first club he's ever joined. He thinks it's a friendly, helpful group and adds, "I want to do a lot for the club." First he wants to get more comfortable with his vehicle and local trails, and then lead a run. He also wants to learn where to go wheeling because he wants to stay legal and aware. Even some seasoned four-wheelers could learn from this young man.

### **First Annual Gordy's Hill New Year's Bash** by Wolfie

This year I decided to change my routine and NOT go to Sage Brush Flats for New Year's Day, but instead go to Gordy's Hill to enjoy the area and get some more tracks on those trails. I was surprised by the number of others that thought the idea was a good one. On Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> there were 15 vehicles that were club members (or prospective members) heading out on the trails. Yours truly was late getting to the starting block (we arrived at



9:00 AM, but hey! We were on vacation!) and I had no idea where to go as I have only been to Gordy's Hill a couple of times and that was for work parties.

Pat split us into two groups, those with > 35" tires and those with 35s or below. Brady had to lead the big-tire group, as Mr. Werkmeister was having major difficulties with batteries, both in his camper and his "Itch". In Pat's group was Mark & Jennifer Werkmeister; Pat, Sue and Taylor (of course) Brady; Mike Coe & Kristy Ohnesorg; Leon, Marcia, and Della Duggar (even though Leon only has 35" tires); Jeff & Lauri Rector; and one other vehicle that I failed to get a name for. Unfortunately, that person was driving a Scrambler (I think) and broke before lunch. He went home immediately after. My group had Glenn Bontly (with friends Pat & Jan Montano, their son Brandon, and Brandon's friend Jesse all scattered it various vehicles); Brad Opatz; Frank G., Beth, & Kimberly Whiston; Keith Chapin; Heath Hislop; David Marks; (with friends Ron Kidner (Cherokee) and Ed Henry (old Bronco)); Justin Simenson; Jeffrey Woodard in his Jimmy; and myself and Joan in my 68 Commando.

After we found room for everyone, we headed out. It was to be a great day weather wise. We headed towards the Quebradas Road and turned left (east) for some trails along the southeastern part of the area. The trails were easily found (thanks to Glenn for sharing a map that Mark had given him!) and were actually quite scenic. We even decided to head up the down stream side of Pucker Falls. Some walked and some drove. Those who drove got their workout for the day. As we were ready to leave, here comes Mr. Werkmeister walking down the trail. His battery had failed on his "Itch" and he needed a jump. I went to help him while Glenn brought the rest of the folks out. Joan rode with Jeffery and enjoyed the heater. (I hate when she gets spoiled like that!) It didn't take them long to find me, and after jump starting Mark, we got on with our trail ride while Mark went to find Brady and Company.

We ate lunch at an area called the picnic grounds and Dave Marks' friends, Ron & Ed turned around for home. After lunch we tried some other trails

and all were fun and scenic with some even having remains of old houses to look at. We came close to the other group a couple of times and talked to them on the CB. They were having fun too, well except maybe for Sheriff Rector. Seems he was going up a ledge and took apart the ring & pinion in his rear 9-inch. Planning to replace his rear axle with a Dana 60, someone aptly named the obstacle "Lauri's 60". Later that evening, after a few beers around the campfire, Mike Coe recommended the name be changed to "Lauri's Rear End". I could say more, but this is a family publication! We tried a new trail, but were a little unsure of the correct direction and turned around as the sun was right in everyone's eyes. It's hard enough to go four wheelin with the sun out of your eyes, let alone with it directly in them! Right, Frank? At about 3:30 pm, we headed back to camp as the night awaited us with revelry and a pot luck meal.

Brad had a motel room in town and went for it when we got close to camp. Jeffery had a motel in town also, but came late to our dinner. Still, he made it and enjoyed the fire and some of the food. Frank, Beth & Kimberly, and Dave Marks all headed home for the weekend, as they had other plans. Pat, Jan, & Brandon headed home only to show up again the next morning, as they live in Los Lunas and it wasn't too far for them to go home easily.

At 5:30 we put together our meal and everybody brought exceptionally good stuff. Unfortunately, I found nothing I didn't like and pigged out! Someone got a fire going and everybody brought more wood than we could possibly use, although we tried hard! The revelry died out quick as this bunch is pretty well shot by 9:00 pm!! I think two couples made it past nine. That was Mike & Kristy and Pat & Sue. Mike & Kristy were the winners though as they made it to 11:00 pm. Wow! What stamina!!

Sometime during the night, the fierce New Mexico wind started up and it was bad! Unfortunately, it would be with us all the next day. We organized our runs again the next morning and split up like the day before. Mark's "Itch" was having problems with the alternator, so he stayed close to Pat with that "battery charger" Premier Power Welder all day. Pat's group was the same list of folks, except

for Sheriff Rector and his wonderful wife. They went home! We all tried to stay in the canyons and out of the wind as much as possible. That definitely helped. My group consisted of Glenn Bontly, with friends Jan & Pat Montano and son Brandon; Brad Opatz; Heath Hislop; Keith Chapin; Mary & Craig Turpin with their two friends Tina Valentine & Andy Young; Jeffery Woodard; Justin Simenson; and Joan and myself. Mark & Pat headed towards the extreme runs and also put some tracks on the run we tried the day before. They were successful and got back to camp about 1:30 pm. With the wind blowing so much, they all left early.

My group headed east again and tried a trail at the east end of the area. It was fun and had some ruins that we all got out and looked at. We then headed north, towards Coyote Canyon. I figured by now that the more competent vehicles would welcome a harder trail. So Jeffery, Joan, and I let the rest go to do the Coyote Canyon run while we hiked down into the canyon to watch. They seemed to be doing pretty well, even Heath with his locked, but not lifted or large-tired Suzuki. I think that Keith said something about fines for whining!! Especially, when Heath asked about this trail being under-rated!! At the point where we hiked in, Joan and I hiked out. Jeffery elected to ride with someone to the end. Well, almost an hour later, they were finally getting near the end. Seems that last part of the trail was the hardest. After they got to the end, we took a lunch break. Glenn headed back to check his camper that he forgot to lock (Sheriff Rector? Did you read that?). The rest of us drove the northern east boundary road. I took a turn to the south and eventually ended up on top of the ridge. From there, we found a really hilly (read, long and steep hills!) trail. Only once did someone have a problem, but they managed to get through alright. We headed north into the wash that runs back to camp where we met Glenn. Keith and Heath decided to back track and run some other things while the rest headed to camp. Of course, there was one little play area and a few of the drivers tried it out. Brad even did an extreme part and enjoyed it immensely. Glenn had lost a front axle U-joint cap and decided to take it easy.

The wind had finally started to die down a bit. When we got to camp, the rest were already gone,

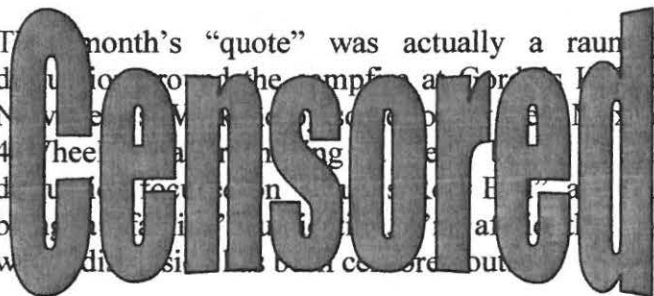
except for Mike and Kristy. We said our good-byes to those who had to go home, except for Justin. Joan decided to interview him (see his Spotlight Article on Page 4) and then he went home. Keith and Heath finally showed up and they too loaded up to go home. Joan and I talked to Mike & Kristy a while and then we decided to get a fire going and rustle up some grub. Mike had made a really large pot of green chile chicken stew that I talked him into heating up. Kristy made some rolls and we had a great dinner. Once again, it was an early turn-in time.

When we got up in the morning, it was cold, but not windy. We loaded up to go home and on the way by Belen, stopped for the best breakfast I have ever had! Frances' has fire-roasted green chile to serve with their meals and is it ever good! It was a splendid way to end a great weekend! Thanks to all who came down to have fun! I already look forward to next year! See you then!

#### Quote of the Month

by Glenn Bontly

The month's "quote" was actually a raunchy  
d... to ... the campfire at Gordy's Hill on  
New Year's Eve. ...  
4 Wheelers ...  
d... fest... H... s...  
b... at... e...  
w... d... c... but



**Sorry, but if you weren't sitting around the campfire at Gordy's Hill on New Years Eve, well then you just missed out! :o)**

#### Pictures on the Internet

by Laurye Tanner

Here is the web site to see New Mexico 4 Wheelers trail runs.

[www.snapfish.com/share/p=209201129853142045/l=6406490/1/cobrandOid=1000111/otsc=SYE/otsi=SALB](http://www.snapfish.com/share/p=209201129853142045/l=6406490/1/cobrandOid=1000111/otsc=SYE/otsi=SALB)

If you do not want to register with SnapFish, you can logon using [nm4wphotos@earthlink.net](mailto:nm4wphotos@earthlink.net); the password is jeepers.

I will be taking some of the 2005 runs off of SnapFish to make way for 2006 runs, BUT, I have not received any pictures for any runs of 2006 yet. Please send pictures!!!

If you would like a DVD of all of the 2005 runs and meetings that I have posted, please e-mail me and I will make you a copy. Price is \$3.00. See you at the next meeting.



- **Dana 30 Front Axle for TJ:** Complete, 4.56 gears, ARB Air Locker. Opened up and all components checked and OK, except for brake rotors which could stand to be resurfaced. Asking \$1000.00. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.

- **Warn MI8000 Winch** with new cable, rarely used, \$500. Call Marcia or Leon at 505-286-8136.

- **1997 Jeep Wrangler (TJ) Sahara,** White with Spice hardtop, 4.0L Auto, AC, PB, PS, AM/FM/CD, 68K miles. Extras: 3" Tera Flex lift, 33" BFG All Terrain, Currie-built Ford rear axle with high pinion, 4:88 gears, ARB lockers F&R, full skid pans end to end, Durango bumpers and rocker skids, Winch plate, Deep trans pan, Dual Optima Batteries, Kilby on board air with tank, CB radio, \$12,500. Call Dixon Patrick at 505-401-0344.

- **For sale or parting out:** 1968 Commando front (Dana 27A) and rear (Dana 30) diffs, 3.73 gears, cheap! Bellhousing, AMC engine (including 4.0L) to GM SM-420 transmission, new, never used, complete kit from Advance Adapters. \$385. Also, new, never used, Centerforce II pressure plate for 80-86 AMC, hydraulic clutch and pressure plate that fits the GM transmission. \$175. These items were purchased for a project that never materialized. T-14 transmission and Dana 20

transfer case in good condition. \$150. Call Wolfie at 505-856-8539.

- **TJ Stuff:** Rubicon express 5.5" long arm kit complete with shocks, springs, bar pin eliminators, extended sway bar links and flat bottom belly-pan, \$1300 OBO. Complete Dana 30 with ARB and a Dana 35 open carrier for TJ's with 4.56 gears, \$700 OBO. Dana 60 rear housing custom built by Wagoner Machine shop- Dynatrac lo-pinion center section, 9" axle tubes and Dana 70 8-lug spindles and hubs. Estimated mounting width (WMS-WMS) of 65", \$500 OBO. Contact Dave Trappett at 505-615-5942.

- **Hi-Lift Jack & Camping Stuff:** 4-foot Hi-Lift Jack, \$25. Front seat from an '82 CJ-7, \$20. Camping stove, \$15. Lantern with carrying case, \$15. Contact Glenn Capener at 505-344-2656.

- **Steering, Fuel Tank, Tranny:** Redneck RAM steering box, \$250. Metal reinforced racing Toyota fuel tank, crash/impact resistant, \$100. Toyota 1988 G52 5-speed transmission, excellent condition, \$300. Ford Expedition or F-150 front tow hooks, \$30 pair, new. Contact Corey Ford at 505-249-5627 or 505-299-8313.

- **4.0 liter engine,** out of 1988 Cherokee, high mileage (198k), \$250. AW4 four-speed automatic also high mileage (includes flexplate and converter), \$300. Package deal! Aforementioned engine and transmission together with complete wiring harness and computer, \$500. Swap the whole shebang into the vehicle of your choice! Also lots of other odds and ends from 1988 Cherokee Laredo. Gather an armload and make me a (really cheap) offer. Contact Mark at 505-891-0296.

- **Jeep TJ Stuff:** Bestop Trail Cover for 97-04 TJ, Spice color, like new \$60; OEM security trunk \$40. Contact Brad at 505-858-0832.

**For more Classified Ads,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.nm4w.org/wanted-for-sale.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/wanted-for-sale.htm)**



**Pictures from Gordy's Hill**

submitted by Dave Marks, Mark Werkmeister, and Joan Wolf



Glenn Bontly and Pat Montano



Jeffery Woodard in Justin Simenson's Rubi



Keith Chapin in his Short Bus



Heath Hislop in his Suzi



Pat Brady



Leon Duggar

## 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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of Trail Tales is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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, 21 Rattlesnake Ridge, Tijeras, NM 87059.

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 <a href="mailto:president@nm4w.org">president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Jeff Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:vice-president@nm4w.org">vice-president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:secretary@nm4w.org">secretary@nm4w.org</a>
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<b>Trip Chairman</b> Jason Lavy 792-8035 <a href="mailto:trip-chairman@nm4w.org">trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <a href="mailto:environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a>	<b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!

## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Feb 4 – 5	Gordy's Hill Work Weekend	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Feb 9	Club Meeting	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Feb 22 – 25	Chile Challenge	<a href="http://www.lascrucesfourwheeldriveclub.com">www.lascrucesfourwheeldriveclub.com</a>	n/a
Mar 9	Club Meeting	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Mar 17 – 19	Post Chile Challenge Cruces Trip	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704

Trail Tales  
 21 Rattlesnake Ridge  
 Tijeras, NM 87059-7440







# Trail Tales



March 1, 2006

The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From February 9, 2006

by Lauri Rector



Meeting was held in Adult Education Room 407 in the Heights Presbyterian Church. Keith Chapin was our host for the evening and brought us Valentine's Day cookies (the heart ring in my cupcake was the closest thing I get to a Valentine's Day present). Mark Werkmeister called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm (after the Brady's arrival).

**Guests:** Tom & Carrie Phillips – '04 Rubicon; Keith Jurey – '98 TJ; Robert Hohlfelder – '98 Suzuki Sidekick; Jerry & Mary Moran – '05 TJ Rubi; Tony Louderbough & Greta Berry – '99 TJ

**Members Present:** Bontly, Brady, Chapin, Duggar, Eklund, Farrell, Gjerner, Greven, Hurt, Kiester, Markham, Marx, Meier, Ohnesorg/Coe (come on guys, make it one name!!!), Peeples, Rector, Sierra, Sousa, Tanner, Thompson, Werkmeister, Whiston (the younger), Wolf, and Woodard

**Secretary's Report – Lauri Rector:** A big thank you to Mike Coe for stopping me from having to read the January meeting minutes. Mark Werkmeister gave my spiel on asking everyone to sign the appropriate sign-in sheets and why when he opened the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** We have a balance of \$2,495.18. There has been no major activity with the account except for \$59 +/- from Tom Hurt on the can recycling. Please let me take this opportunity to thank Tom for taking on this function for the club, it's greatly appreciated.

**Vice President's Report – Jeff Rector:** He's got nothing again. No undercover agents reported any

finances from the two events since January's meeting. There was some discussion that he should be fined for not having any fines. Ok, I need to interject something here that wasn't said at the meeting. We do have the Chile Challenge coming up. It is a four day event that is well attended by our club. Many, many silly things happen in 4 days of wheelin. If you go to the Chile Challenge, bring your quarters with you to the March meeting.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy:** Past runs: Frank Whiston (the younger) lead a "Tweeners" run at Gordy's Hill. Four club members and 8 guests were in attendance with 12 vehicles total. One person had problems on Quebradas Scenic By-way. They ran Hidden Valley, and they went back around and did Lower Armado Canyon to Pucker Falls. Mark Werkmeister did a work weekend at Gordy's Hill the following weekend. They opened 4 more trail segments. Squeeze Canyon and Upper Armado Canyon was one section that had cut off, but is now open between the two trails. These are more for vehicles equipped with 35" tires, lockers, and drivers that aren't afraid of rocks. Saturday evening Mike Bilbo came riding up to camp on his ATV to get them to come help him get his truck unstuck from clump of brushes. Even though a few gulps of adult beverages had been taken, they couldn't refuse to help Mike. Pat Brady did the honors. They were paid the next day with locally brewed beer, the best kind of pay for that kind of work.

Upcoming events: The CHILE CHALLENGE – not even 2 weeks away (and there was much discussion because the Sheriff is still waiting for his new rear end to come in). Our club usually has good representation at this event with about 20 to 25 vehicles in attendance. Ok, I've got to go off the minutes here again because some of you that can't go to the CHILE CHALLENGE may not be able to

wait until the March meeting to know whether or not Jeff's rear end came in on time. Well you will now be able to get a goodnight's sleep. The rear end came in on the 13<sup>th</sup> and installation is going along as smoothly as any installation can go (where else could you say rear end in one publication and it not be in an adult only publication?).

Cliff Meier is leading some easier trails down there 2 weeks after the CHILE CHALLENGE.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Bob Norton:**

Not present. Mark Werkmeister had some items to bring up. 1<sup>st</sup> – he sent an email to all the members about senate bill 708. It is a short bill and it mandates that the governor get a task force to make recommendations before he goes to the forest service about his recommendations on the roadless area designations. The committee hearing should have been yesterday. This hearing has been put off twice now to allow the greensies to pack the place. The hearing should now be on Saturday.

Pete Domenici has targeted areas in Southern New Mexico; such as the Dona Mountains, were there are trails that a lot of us have been on. There are land swaps between BLM and the University. The areas will either be roadless areas or designated trails. Broad Canyon could be involved in this as well as the trails in the Dona Ana Mountains.

**SFWDA Delegate's Report (appointed as needed):**

Mark Wolf encouraged everyone that could, to go to the CHILE CHALLENGE. He also encouraged all to buy CHILE CHALLENGE raffle tickets because you don't have to be present to win, the raffle supports 75% – 80% of the operating funds of SFWDA, and best of all, there are really good prizes. Leon Duggar had more information on the raffle prizes. B.F. Goodrich donated a set of 35" tires (baby tires to most of us – so Leon defined them as light duty pick up tires). Goodyear is sending in a set of tires. Detroit locker. And several more 4X4 prizes that almost everyone could need or want, I just couldn't type fast enough.

**Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx:**

Reported that he has the winning ticket for the BFG tires. He explained our 50/50 raffle to the guests.

He also has club apparel that will be available for sale after the meeting.

**Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner:** All of last years runs will be taken off Snapfish (well, a good chunk of them) and she'll put them on a DVD and it will be for sale.

**Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Had nothing to report. (But he does so much for our club and does it very well).

**Old Business:** Mark Wolf reported on the progress of the SFWDA Summer Quarterly that we are hosting. Ed Kausche is trying to get a hold of people he knows who live up there that could accommodate us. This part is progressing slowly as most of them live elsewhere during the winter and it's been hard to get a hold of them. There is one possibility that is currently being worked on. Marcia Duggar reported that she needs someone to man the registration desk during the event. She's almost certain that she won't be able to make the trip as she'll be very pregnant with twins by then (Oh no, that means twice as many Duggars). They are due to arrive shortly after the event (seems to me that this is better timing than having to miss out on the CHILE CHALLENGE). Cliff Meier is heading up the trail ride committee. Mark Wolf said that it will be advertised as easy-to-moderate trails with extreme scenery. Extreme trails however will be available in nearby Montrose, but the committee is not overseeing any trail rides there.

We need to pick a date for the 4X4 101 event at Auge's. Robert Auge wants us to pick a date in April, and he prefers one of the last 2 weekends. Laurye Tanner asked when the Albuquerque birthday party was. Mark Werkmeister's response was that he wasn't invited because he lives in Rio Rancho. Mike Coe wants to know if they will be serving cake at the birthday party (you can tell he likes cake!!!). I reminded Laurye that she doesn't live in Albuquerque either and may not even be invited either. Mark Werkmeister said that he needs a volunteer to coordinate the event as he is busy every Saturday in April. It was voted on to have it on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Then all eyes turned to Pat Brady. He finally relented to all of the stalling and

volunteered to head the committee to organize the event. Next month he can appoint a committee.

Laurye Tanner brought up the calendar. She needs pictures. I'll be sure to get one of Jeff over to her right away, or maybe Mary Thompson has a good shot of him hiding behind something.

Wolfie found a place to have our garage sale. Honeywell, near Jefferson and Alameda, is having a swap meet sort of thing in their parking lot. Lots of people come to this, a lot of hot rodder types. Cost is \$15 for 1<sup>st</sup> spot (a parking space), \$10 for each additional spot. They do all of the advertising, which can cost upwards of \$100. Mike Coe also pointed out that having it here, rather than at their house, will save Kristie from having to clean up everything afterward. It is the Saturday after the 4X4 101 at Auge's, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May. Mark Wolf asked Mike Coe if he wanted to coordinate this event since the garage sale was his idea in the 1<sup>st</sup> place. Mike said he'd have to think about it, then his eyes rolled and smoke started coming out of ears and he hemmed and hawed and finally said yes. He really is very talented at avoiding any unnecessary exertion, such as volunteering to head a committee. It was voted on favorably.

**New Business:** Leon and Marcia are going to have twins. This really wasn't said during the New Business part of the meeting, but I just had to write it down again, I'm just so happy for them.

Jeff Rector (our Sheriff who has had no fines to pass out for months now and has not done his part to build up our bank account) motioned that the club buy CHILE CHALLENGE raffle tickets and we keep whatever we win. The club can figure out a future use for it. Discussion was how many? Keith threw out the number 100 – I will not say where he pulled that # from (but he was sitting on it). Leon wants to know how much it will cost to host the summer quarterly. Mark said it would be about \$1,500 (but, I don't think that registration fees that we collected were considered). What will we do with the prizes? Maybe raffle them off at the summer quarterly. Why would we want to do this? We would be supporting the SWFWDA. Why do we want to support them? Mark said the same reason we support this club, except in a larger scale.

Money goes to their operating fund, pays for drive lines, and pays the retainer fees for Carla, the land action lawyer. Jerry wants to know who will fill out the tickets? Well, Jeff and I do have a stamp with our name and address on it. We were able to stamp our ticket stubs in no time at all. For some odd reason, no one liked this solution. Leon said that he would write NM4W on them on Saturday. He would haul home all the prizes that we won as well – whine, whine, whine. How low do we let our bank account get? I heard Paul say that he was new to the job and gave an amount that was in the check book, but I didn't hear what he said, because the Sheriff had to come up and ask me what guests were present. Like I just sit up there at the table and work on looking pretty (yeah, I know, I need to work harder!!!) \$500 was voted on and approved, motion passed.

Jerry & Mary Moran were voted in as members, after the Vice President asked him how many points he had. It was at this point that Leon accused me of whining because I asked trail leaders to please send me a list of the people that went on the run.

Many thanks were given to Keith Chapin for sponsoring the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm – no wait a minute . . .

Mark Werkmeister forgot something - Gordy's management team designating the OHV system. Early October is when this will be completed. Some areas limited and not open. Consternation of some of the BLM members about some of the trails. New trails will be closed, unless in concentrated use areas.

Also at Gordy's, a vertical mine shaft was found with just a piece of wood over it. Rock thrown in took several seconds before it bottom. We have been driving over it and some have parked on it. Could be an illegal mine from the '80s? Watch out for others out there.

Mark showed us the Nambe Plate that we contributed to for Mike Bilbo and all of his work for the OHV community. It was not presented at the grand opening of the new BLM building. They



wanted focus to be on the building and the director instead of Mike.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm. Did it? Yes, it really did.

**Winner of the 50/50 drawing: ME!!!** One of our biggest pots was collected - \$100. \$50 for the club and \$50 for ME!!! For the record, February's meeting was a total of 4 years of meetings – that is 48 meetings, and we have only missed one meeting during that time. We usually buy no less than \$5 worth of tickets. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time that we have won.

### CAN EVERYONE TELL I'M EXCITED ABOUT THE CHILE CHALLENGE?



#### President's Report By Mark Werkmeister

Greetings from the President. Once again, the club was a big part of the largest 4WD gathering in the southwest. With 378 registered vehicles, this past week was the biggest Chile Challenge to date. Everywhere I looked, I saw NM4W members and involvement. Congratulations everyone! Our "investment" in 500 tickets for the raffle paid off handsomely when the club won the Warn winch. We should consider "re-raffling" it off at the summer quarterly and we can probably fatten SWFWDA coffers even more.

The weather is warming up and we are looking for members to lead a bunch of runs this summer. With the lack of local precipitation, we can probably count on an early and long closure of the local forests, so think about BLM opportunities and trips to locations where it is a bit wetter. Don't forget to dig out some of those "old" trips that the club got "bored" with . . . we have lots of new people who haven't experienced them yet.

The Albuquerque International Auto Show is April 20-23 and our club has volunteered to provide a 25 vehicle display for the final day, Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We need to have the vehicles there by 9:00 am and

can get them out after 5:00 pm. In addition to the great local publicity at this motorized enthusiast based event, each participant will be admitted to the show free of charge. I have been keeping a list of the people who have volunteered to show their vehicles (thanks to all of you). If we get more than 25 vehicles, I will pick the 25 that I think will be "most interesting" to the public. There are still a few slots left so let me know if you can commit to that date. Non-Jeep vehicles are especially welcome as our 25 vehicle roster looks like it will be primarily Jeeps.

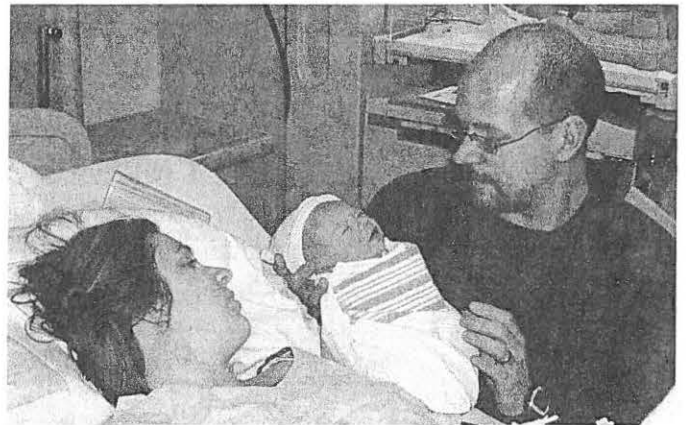
See you at the meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup>!

Mark



Birth of a Monster?

#### Another New NM4-Wheeler by Jason & Sara Lavy



Blake Lavy was born Friday, 10 Feb, weighing 8lbs 3oz and 22in long. We're very excited! Jason

## The Summer Quarterly

by Cliff Meier

I would like to get an early start on signing up trail leaders and tail gunners for the Summer Quarterly. In addition to the primary trail leaders and tail gunners, I would like alternates for each of the rides. I realize this is early, everyone is focused on the Chile Challenge, but it is a start and I expect changes.

All of the trails are all around Ouray and Silverton areas, rated easy-to-moderate, and all depart from Ridgway. I plan to put package together for each of the trails with maps and other information for the leaders.

Please e-mail me at [sarmeier@yahoo.com](mailto:sarmeier@yahoo.com) for more information or to volunteer. Thanks.

## "Tweener's" Day at Gordy's Hill

by Frank G. Whiston

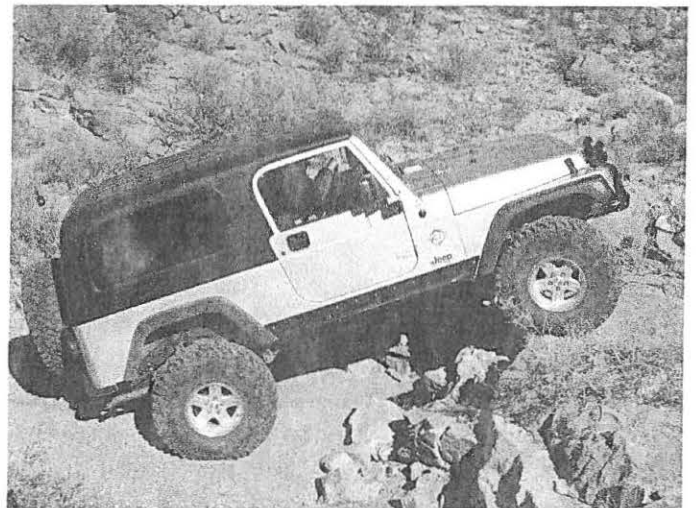
Ever felt like you were stuck in the middle between two extremes? I have, when going down to Gordy's Hill. I remember my first visit back in November. It was a work day, and Mark Werkmeister split us into two groups, big tires, and small tires. I ended up right on the edge of the split. The big tire group was for those with 35's or larger and small tires included all below down to stock. What to do? As my mind was racing to make a decision for which group to go with, Mark asked for a show of hands for the big tires, so that he could get a good idea of how many rigs would be trailing him. What the heck! I raised my hand and went with the big guys that day. It was a great day, but I definitely did not want to tackle anything more difficult than Coyote Canyon trail that we ran that day.

I returned to Gordy's Hill for the New Year's Rockin' Weekend where Pat Brady headed up the driver's meeting that Saturday. Once again, we split into two groups, big and small tires. This time, Pat explained that the first trail he would be running was suited for 35's, but the next one may be a struggle for that size. I used my better judgment and ran with the little tire guys that day. It was a

fun day, but I missed out on any kind of a challenge.



A week later, I contacted Mark Werkmeister about leading a run targeted for rigs equipped with 33"-35" tires and at least one locker. He responded enthusiastically with some great suggestions for trails to run. He even gave us a great name for these types, here is what he stated: "So you are the classic 'tweener! Too well equipped to run with the stockers, but not wanting to tear things up on the big rocks." I thought this description fit me perfectly. So, I took his suggestions, invited a few friends, and announced a run to the club at the next meeting.



The first "Tweener's" Day at Gordy's Hill was on Saturday, January 28. We had twelve vehicles show up. Members present included Joe Abbate and his Fiancé Crystal (early Bronco), Ed & Lyn

Kausche (red TJ), Glenn Bontly and guest (red TJ), and us; Frank, Beth, and Kimberly Whiston (silver Unlimited). All other attendees were guests. Once all of the rigs were either unloaded from their trailers and/or aired down, we left the staging area to hit the trails. As we made our way up the Quebradas Scenic Byway, a Unimog bailed on us due to some electrical difficulties. I am not sure that he fit in all that well as a 'tweener with the huge tires and four-wheel steering anyway.

We started out easy by dropping in to the top end of lower Arroyo de Las Pinos in route to Hidden Valley trail. There we got into some moderate rock ledges and boulders. From there, we continued on up the main drainage through the Upper Amado Canyon trail where the boulders in the stream bed got larger. I pulled up to a waterfall and saw how tall and steep the obstacle was and decided to take the bypass as did the whole group. Too bad the Unimog had to turn back. We broke for lunch at the top of the canyon, as the topography shielded us from the cutting wind.



After lunch, we went on to Over the Hill trail, where a couple of the rigs without front lockers were strapped up the hill. Once everyone was up the hill, we made our way to the South Boundary Road. From there we went down the South Canyon access road and traveled up the mid section of Upper Amado Canyon. This time, we exited the canyon up and over the Causeway. This brought us back to lower Arroyo de Las Pinos. As we continued down the arroyo, Glenn noted that we had time to run the lower part of Upper Amado

Canyon up to Pucker Falls. Everyone was agreeable, so off we went. The group crawled their way up the canyon and back without incident. From there, it was back up lower Arroyo de Las Pinos. We all took the Cutoff back to the Quebradas Scenic Byway returning to the staging area. The only thing that could have made the day better would have been the absence of cold wind.

### Quote of the Month

by Glenn Bontly

It was Tuesday, 21 Feb, late morning, several of us had just finished breakfast in Belen, and we were heading down to Las Cruces. As I was driving, I thought to myself:

**I got the whole week off of work,  
I'm going to the Chile Challenge,  
the weather is supposed to be good,  
and Chuck just announced a clean bill of health.**

**It's gonna be a great week!  
(and it was!)**

### Danger, Danger, Danger at Gordy's Hill

by Mike Bilbo, BLM, Socorro Field Office

While on a visit to various areas with persons who may submit an special recreation permit application, we stopped today, 1/31/06, at a location just south of the Quebradas Backcountry Byway named Minas de Chupadera on the Loma de las Canas topo map. This is apparently an abandoned mining area and looks to have been worked in the 50s or 60s. At one location is a derelict, shotup tanker trailer, maybe 10,000 gallons, and two rectangular concrete basins for mineral processing. This location has waste rock piles that have nice specimens of azurite and malachite, and so people park here often and there is a kind of turn-around casually developed here. A lot of off-road enthusiasts also visit here and turn around.

So we did the turn-around and parked. In the middle of the small flat clearing I saw a hole that wasn't there a few weeks ago. So I walked over and looked in, noting wood splinters from what looked



like 1-inch plywood. I couldn't see anything so did the guy-test of dropping in a fist-sized rock. About 3 seconds went by before I heard a distant ka-thoom and splash.

I then took two great big giant steps quickly back, because apparently I was standing on a PLYWOOD and DIRT covering of a deep vertical shaft - the covering with plywood and gravelly dirt is only about 4 inches thick!!! The hole has appeared because of vehicle tires stressing out the old wood. So the thing is failing. I couldn't tell how big the opening is as the ground all around is very smooth there, so I decided to assume it's big.

There are other areas there with big waste rock piles indicating other shafts and adits. So it's a very dangerous situation, isolated from our office, where many Backcountry Byway visitors arrive to collect mineral specimens and hike the area. When I returned to the office, I notified Mark Lane and Brian Bellew. Brian had Sabrina Flores and I call the district hazmat person who said we should call David Sitzler, which we did. He advised us he will look at the site, and to go right away back out there and flag the site.

I went back out with 4 T-posts and plenty of flagging tape and cordoned a large square area around this feature.

Legal Location: T2S, R1E, Sec 26, SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$

Garmin GPS: NAD 27, Zone 13 S, Easting 0333333, Northing 3775258



- **Westin chrome side-steps for Ford Explorer SuperCab 2-door, '88-'05.** New, in unopened box, model 25-2110. \$175. Call Marcia Duggar at 505-850-7768.

- **Dana 30 Front Axle for TJ:** Complete, 4.56 gears, ARB Air Locker. Opened up and all

components checked and OK, except for brake rotors which could stand to be resurfaced. Asking \$1000.00. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.

- **For sale or parting out:** 1968 Commando front (Dana 27A) and rear (Dana 30) diffs, 3.73 gears, cheap! Bellhousing, AMC engine (including 4.0L) to GM SM-420 transmission, new, never used, complete kit from Advance Adapters. \$385. Also, new, never used, Centerforce II pressure plate for 80-86 AMC, hydraulic clutch and pressure plate that fits the GM transmission. \$175. These items were purchased for a project that never materialized. T-14 transmission and Dana 20 transfer case in good condition. \$150. Call Wolfie at 505-856-8539.

- **TJ Stuff:** Rubicon express 5.5" long arm kit complete with shocks, springs, bar pin eliminators, extended sway bar links and flat bottom belly-pan, \$1300 OBO. Complete Dana 30 with ARB and a Dana 35 open carrier for TJ's with 4.56 gears, \$700 OBO. Dana 60 rear housing custom built by Wagoner Machine shop- Dynatrac lo-pinion center section, 9" axle tubes and Dana 70 8-lug spindles and hubs. Estimated mounting width (WMS-WMS) of 65", \$500 OBO. Contact Dave Trappett at 505-615-5942.

- **Hi-Lift Jack & Camping Stuff:** 4-foot Hi-Lift Jack, \$25. Front seat from an '82 CJ-7, \$20. Camping stove, \$15. Lantern with carrying case, \$15. Contact Glenn Capener at 505-344-2656.

- **Steering, Fuel Tank, Tranny:** Redneck RAM steering box, \$250. Metal reinforced racing Toyota fuel tank, crash/impact resistant, \$100. Toyota 1988 G52 5-speed transmission, excellent condition, \$300. Ford Expedition or F-150 front tow hooks, \$30 pair, new. Contact Corey Ford at 505-249-5627 or 505-299-8313.

**For more Classified Ads,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.nm4w.org/wanted-for\\_sale.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/wanted-for_sale.htm)**

**Pictures from the Chile Challenge**  
submitted by Glenn Bontly and Marcia Duggar



Glenn did his first Extreme Trail—Tabasco Twister  
(had to be winched up the Abyss)



Another shot of Glenn on Tabasco Twister



It was Leon's first time on Tabasco Twister also



He winched up the Abyss as well



In fact . . .

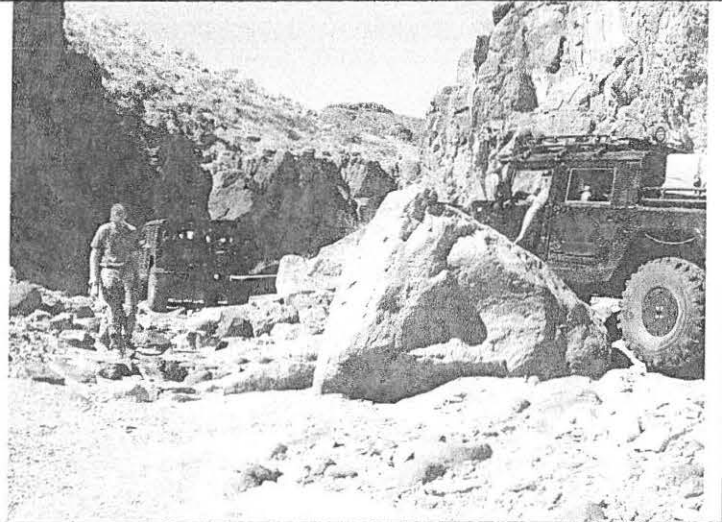


Even Jeff had trouble with the Abyss!





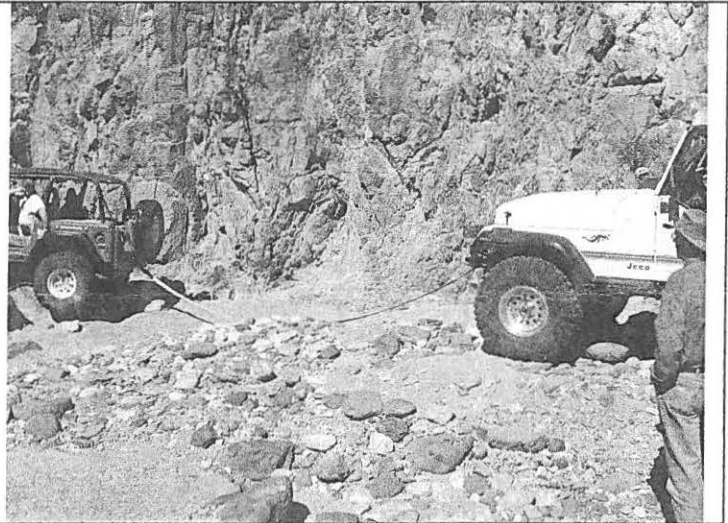
The Beautiful Broad Canyon Trail



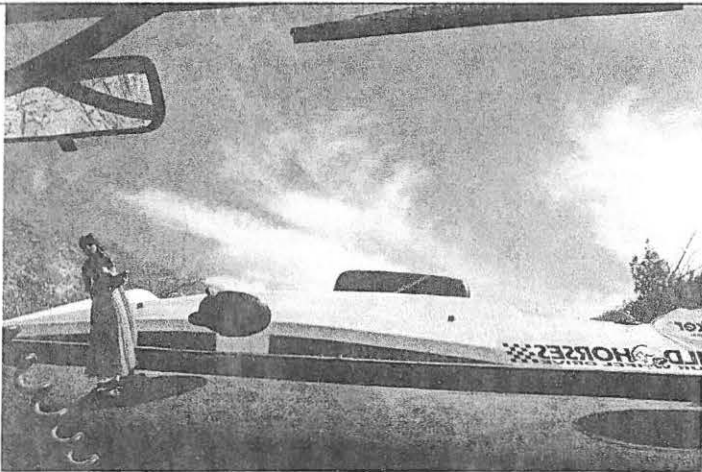
We had 3 Hummers with us on Broad Canyon



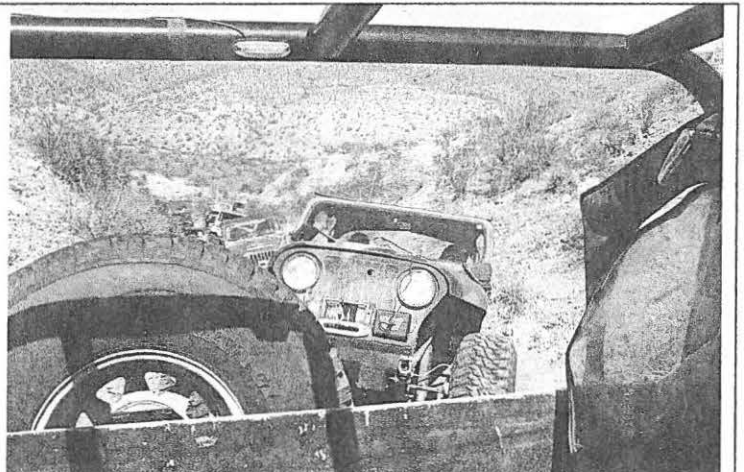
The Hummers got stuck often! <hahaha>



Oh yeah, I had to get strapped off of a rock or two myself <blush>



The climb out of the Cayenne Crawler Trail



It was a l-o-n-g way to the top





Kristy reinstalls her rear drive shaft after Jeff replaced a damaged U-Joint for her



Paul got Mary's Jeep really dirty. Luckily, the rain washed it off before Mary arrived on Friday evening!



The traffic cone on the hood says "No Whining". :o)



The SWFWDA President Himself



Leon & Marcia workin' the raffle



The Port-a-Bronco thing just won't die!!!!

## 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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of Trail Tales is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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, 21 Rattlesnake Ridge, Tijeras, NM 87059.

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 <a href="mailto:president@nm4w.org">president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Jeff Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:vice-president@nm4w.org">vice-president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:secretary@nm4w.org">secretary@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Paul Thompson 293-8390 <a href="mailto:treasurer@nm4w.org">treasurer@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Jerry Marx 922-9370 <a href="mailto:program-chairman@nm4w.org">program-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Laurye Tanner 281-0994 <a href="mailto:historian@nm4w.org">historian@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Trip Chairman</b> Jason Lavy 792-8035 <a href="mailto:trip-chairman@nm4w.org">trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <a href="mailto:environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a>	<b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  "Your Name Here" Please Volunteer!

## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Mar 9	Club Meeting	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Mar 17 - 19	Post Chile Challenge Cruces Trip	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
Apr 13	Club Meeting	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Apr 29	Auge's 4x4 101	Call Pat Brady	505-898-6449
May 2	4x4 & Camping Garage Sale	Call Mike Coe	540-896-1658

Trail Tales  
 21 Rattlesnake Ridge  
 Tijeras, NM 87059-7440

ALBUQUERQUE NM 871

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# Trail Tales



April 1, 2006

The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From March 9, 2006

by Lauri Rector



Meeting was held in room 407 in the Heights Presbyterian Church. Cliff and Jeanne Meier were the hosts for the evening. Mark Werkmeister called the meeting to order at 7:05 sharp.

**Guests:** Eric Wickwire – '98 TJ; Doug Pannell – '99 TJ; Wynn Werner – '82 Scrambler; Keith & Linda Jurey – '98 TJ; Larry Maxey – '95 Wrangler; Robert Hohlfelter – Sidekick; Cory & Tiffany Ryan – TJ; Mike Robertson & Kathy Wolf – '01 LR Discovery; Tony Lauderbaugh – '99 TJ; Brian DeJarnett – '00 Toyota 4-Runner. (WOW!!! Lots of guests!!! Welcome to all of you!!!)

**Members Present:** Baca, Bontly, Brady, Chapin, Duggar, Eklund, Finch, Greven, Hurt, Hyman, Moran, Lavy, Markham, Marx, Meier, Miller, Coe, Peeples, Rector, Rodacy, Simenson, Tanner, Thompson, Turpin, Whiston, Werkmeister, Wolf, Woodard.

**Secretary's Report – Lauri Rector:** Nothing to report. And everyone will just have to read last months Trail Tales for the meeting minutes; it was voted again to skip that.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** \$2,032.53 – We have spent all but about \$400 of what revenue we brought in since August. Does this mean we are excellent savers?

**Vice President's Report – Jeff Rector:** Fines – Mark Werkmeister explained what the fines were about to the new members. Did he say "grievous off road expenses"?

**Trip Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy:** Past Runs – Chile Challenge – it was decided that it would be best to just ask everyone to read the write-ups and pictures in the March Trail Tales. If you can't read, then you can just look at the pictures. Paul led Jimmie Farrell to the Rio Puerco. This small of run makes it easier for the trail leader, but I don't remember anything else being said about this run.

Upcoming runs – Cliff Meier is going to lead some trails in Las Cruces this Friday – they will be meeting Tom Huff for dinner on Friday and discussing trails that will be run over the weekend. I (Lauri Rector) volunteered to lead a "Chic Challenge" on May 20<sup>th</sup> – it will be the same trail that Marsha Duggar lead a year ago last January. It is better known as the "blow hole" trail. Once I can get Tom Hurt to help me pre-run it, I will have Glenn Bontly put it on the Events Schedule. Garage sale at Honeywell may be on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, but not yet confirmed. Mark Wolf has only provided Mike Coe with last years information and the contact information is not good any longer. Mike promises to have details by the next meeting.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Bob Norton:** Not present.

**Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx:** Explained the 50/50 raffle to the guests. He gave a valiant try to collect more money for our coffers by saying that tickets are a \$1 a piece or 5 for \$6 (it's 6 for \$5). He also let everyone know that he has club clothing paraphernalia for sale as well.

**Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner:** She has gotten 2 CD of pictures from the Chile Challenge. She has removed a lot of pictures from the Snap Fish site and she'll remove more once she puts on this year's Chile Challenge pictures. She needs

pictures of our little homely faces for our web site, and action shots (extreme or not) for the calendar. Please send them to her as soon as possible.

**SWFWDA Report – Mark Wolf:** Talked about the raffle, and Leon announced we raised \$9,600 (+/-). NM4W won the winch and the Gift Certificate from???? (For some reason I thought Jeff would be able to tell me this, but he can't. But it was something really good). Spring Quarterly will be at the Superlift Park in Hot Springs, AR. Fall Quarterly will be at YO Ranch in Austin area (give or take 200 miles or so) of TX.

**Old Business:** Mark Wolf said that the Summer Quarterly dates have been set for July 27th, 28th & 29th. He is trying to check about us getting the Ouray County Fairgrounds. This would still be close to Ridgeway. He explained that the All-4-Fun would be ending just as our event is starting and it could be overwhelming for Silverton to have our event right after the All-4-Fun. Mike Coe is still finalizing the food arrangements. Cliff Meier said that trail pre-runs are scheduled for July 7th & the 15th. You can do the pre-runs other weekends if these weekends are a conflict with your hectic social calendar. He has copies of the trails and maps with him if you'd like to have a copy.

Auge's 4X4 101 is scheduled for April 29th. Mark Wolf explained what this event is about to the guests. Pat Brady is the organizer this year and has been remiss about contacting Robert Auge this last month. He will have dates and times confirmed by the April meeting. April 15th & 22nd were set for work weekends at Auge's to get the course ready. Mark Werkmeister reminded us that Sunday, April 23rd is the International Auto Show. He is soliciting other people and their vehicles from outside the club. If he gets more than 25 vehicles, he will take it upon himself to be the one to decide which 25 get to put their vehicle into hock for the day. More details to follow at the next meeting. Time is definite, be there by 9:00 am sharp. Show opens at 10:00 am. Show ends at 7 pm. We can take our vehicles at 5 pm, but not before. Someone must be with our vehicles at all times in case there are questions. So we need to take turns on using our free tickets to the show. Whoever has any NM4W

banners, please bring them with you, or give them to someone else who's going.

The subject went back to Fall Quarterly and where the YO Ranch is located. Some said Kerrville and some said Fredericksburg – outside Austin – maybe about 60 miles (my fault if this is wrong, I struggle when just one person is talking, let alone more). August 28th to Sept 2nd are the dates that have been set. Information and possibly registration can be found on Austin Jeep Exclusive Club's and YO Ranch's website. Glenn will post it on our website. Mark Werkmeister said that the YO Ranch website is worth checking out; there are a lot of things that this ranch is doing besides off-road activities.

**New Business:** Need to decide what the club will do with the brand new, still-in-the-box XP9500 winch. Pat Brady suggested \$5 raffle tickets at the summer quarterly with proceeds going to club to pay back the \$500 worth of tickets that the club bought and the rest going to the SWFWDA land fund. Would enough people buy tickets that we would bring in enough money to recoup our expense of buying the \$500 tickets? Mike Coe brought up T-shirts, he had a suggestion, but then didn't suggest it? (Did I hear that he was going suggest that he and Mark Wolf would wear them in a wet t-shirt contest? That's just wrong). Mark (one of them) felt that we should raffle something off at the monthly meeting (I didn't type in what was to be raffled – was it the t-shirts or the winch? I think it was the t-shirts the club won in the raffle) – it was motioned and approved. More discussion on the winch (OK, I'm lucky to get anything typed, much less a persons name) we need to require that you must-be-present-to-win, more exciting this way, you get to see the persons reaction to winning it and they get to take it home with them (because we do not plan to have the expense of mailing it to them, it weighs more than Wolfie).

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 with a big thank you to Jeanne Meier for bringing the homemade goodies.

**Winner of the 50/50 drawing:** Jeff and Lauri Rector donated several T-Shirts to the raffle that they won in the raffle at the Chile Challenge (yes, Jeff is very particular about his T-Shirts, must be a Large and cannot be white). Jeffery Woodard –

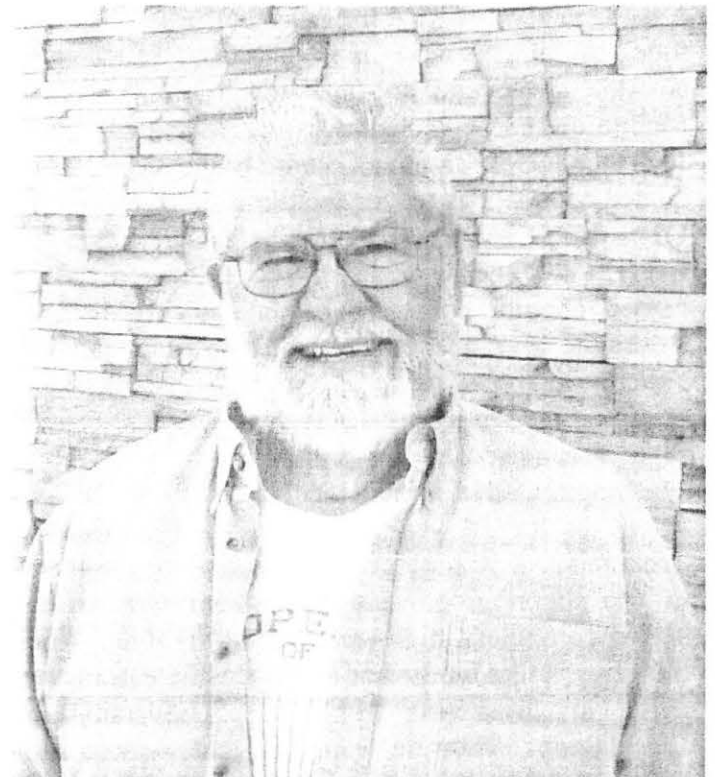
M.O.R.E. T-shirt. Frank Whiston (the Jr) – some kind of part. Cliff Meier - Currie T-Shirt. A Guest – Mile Marker T-Shirt (sorry that I did not get the name), and Mike Coe - \$54 of the \$107 pot.

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> month in a row that Jerry has sold over \$100 tickets at the meeting. Way to go Jerry for the great sales effort and way to go club members for buying tickets.

In the meantime, fire up those vehicles and prepare to enjoy the approach of warmer weather by four wheeling with your club friends!

Mark

**Member Spotlight: Mike Coe**  
by Joan Wolf



How did Mike Coe get from being a technical writer in Virginia to being a four-wheeler in New Mexico? "Fate intervened," says Mike. And not once, but twice.

In 1998 at his company parking lot in Virginia, Mike noticed a lifted YJ with New Mexico plates. He eventually met the owner, Ron Simkulet, a onetime NM4W member. Ron mentioned an upcoming event in Salida, Colorado that offered challenging terrain and lots of trails. At Ron's advice, Mike contacted Wolfie (also Ron's former work colleague) and signed up for the NM4W-hosted summer quarterly in Salida.

With his easygoing style, affinity for campfire lies stories, and enthusiasm for wheeling. Mike fit right in. He became an NM4W Associate Member and



**President's Report**  
By Mark Werkmeister

Spring in New Mexico is a fickle thing...after having one of the warmest and driest winters on record, March has been a wide range of weather drama with howling sand-laden winds, heavy late season snow-falls, and beautiful sunny days. It is a good thing we drive 4WD's to deal with all of nature's idiosyncrasies. Don't let the unpredictable weather dissuade you! We still are seeking several trail leaders for both April and May. Dust off your old maps and help the club "re-discover" a trail we haven't run in a while.

Speaking of dusty maps, we are busy trying to figure out how to engage the various National Forests to ensure that appropriate motorized recreational opportunities exist for all of us when they complete their mandated route-designation process. From our conversations so far, it looks like old maps will be useful in helping to identify roads and trails to be included on the "starting point" maps. Dig through your closets and map drawers and pull out any old National Forest maps (the older the better!). We are also trying to ensure that user-provided input, in the form of common GPS format trail logs, will be accepted and used to identify potential designated routes. We don't have a clear picture just yet but be prepared to participate in an all-out GPS blitz later on this year if one becomes necessary. In addition to the obvious routes that we will want included in the Jemez District of the Santa Fe NF, we will probably be called upon to provide suitable 4WD trail system suggestions for several of the other forests.



over the next several years ran with the club at Mt. Blanca and Moab. By 2004 Mike had retired, sold his Virginia house, and was a fulltime RVer. It was July 2004 at the Summer Quarterly in Fairplay when fate intervened again and in a most special way. Mike met Kristy Ohnesorg--and the sparks flew. They're now a happy, two-Jeep household and recently moved into a new home on Albuquerque's west side.

Mike actually qualified for full membership his first time out with the club. He'd gotten to Salida early so went on several pre-runs with NM4W. When Mongo (aka, Scott Brunwasser) sustained major Jeep damage on Carnage Canyon the first day, Mike hauled Mongo around for the duration of the event. From the passenger seat of Mike's TJ, Mongo led Iron Chest Mine twice and Carnage Canyon. Mike earned enough points to become a full member before the Sheriff even had a chance to explain the system!

Mike was raised by his grandparents in Olympia, Washington. He joined the Navy at age 18 and stayed in for 10 years. He was a Fire Control Technician, a strange title for something unrelated to fire suppression. He worked with radar and analog computers, high-tech stuff at the time. After the Navy, Mike worked at Boeing while earning his B.A. in Business from the University of Washington. Then he went east and worked as a technical writer for defense contractors and private industry.

For seven years, Mike "dropped out" of the corporate world and moved to West Virginia. He ran bars, worked as a roughneck, and did odd jobs. This is when he became interested in Jeeps. He was driving a '63 Chevy pickup in the mud and swamps and was often told, "You should get a Jeep." So he got a '78 CJ5 and started racing it in drags, hill climbs, and obstacle courses. (He's also owned a '79 CJ7 that became the tow vehicle for the racing Jeep, an '89 YJ, and his '97 TJ.)

About the racing, Mike explains, "It's a different kind of four wheeling back there. There isn't as much public land or trails." He enjoyed the mud/swamp area in the Caanan Valley, which has

since been closed off. "We called them swamps back then, now it's called wetlands."

After West Virginia, Mike dropped back into the corporate world as a technical writer, but this time he let go of the corporate ladder. He concentrated on doing his job and socking away for retirement. It was a joyous day in 2000 when he retired and became a fulltime RVer.

Following professional advice to set retirement goals, Mike set three: find the ultimate in four-wheeling, beer, and pizza. He's accomplished much in the four-wheeling and beer categories, but says pizza dropped off the list. He's visited over 100 brewpubs and the ultimate to date is Dick's Brewery in Centralia, WA. The owner makes his own sausage and bottles 36 varieties of beer, the most in the world. His state rankings for best micro-breweries are Washington, Oregon, California, Colorado, Arizona, and then New Mexico. Best in NM is High Desert in Las Cruces. They also have the best motto, "None of our beers suck."



And the ultimate wheeling? Mike's overall favorite trails are the Rubicon and Holy Cross. Highest ranking on the testosterone scale are Johnson Valley in California and Patzcuarro's Revenge in Las Cruces. He's run 90% of the Moab trails and likes them all. Future rides? Mike wants to do Sierra Trek and repeat Johnson Valley and the Rubicon.

These trails should be no problem in his beefed-up TJ. With Mike's money, Pat Brady recently

installed a stretched Rock Krawler suspension. The TJ also features coil over shocks, Dana 60 rear, high pinion 9" front, 4:1, ARBs, etc., etc. Mike thinks 37" tires are enough, but "I thought that about 35's a few years ago." Now that his Jeep is done, except for some cleanup, Kristy's Jeep will get a makeover with some of the dismantled parts and some new stuff as well. (He gave me specifics, but I dozed off, sorry.)

Mike's six-year old grandson, Mason, loves the Jeep—and that's just been on rides to the grocery store. He hasn't been on trails with Grandpa yet. Mike's family also includes son Aaron, a high school teacher in Everett WA, granddaughter Annie, and son Steven who runs a small construction business in Virginia.

Due to some unpleasant situations at former clubs, Mike had misgivings about joining NM4W. But he likes the people in NM4W and appreciates the concern about taking care of the environment. Although he and Kristy have been busy with the new house, Mike volunteered to organize the May swap meet and is on the Silverton Summer Quarterly committee. He'll lead some trails and set up the group dinner meal. Hmm, which brewpub will it be?

**Post Chile Challenge Trip to Las Cruces**  
by Cliff Meier



The Post Chile Challenge Run held in Las Cruces Mar 17- 19 was a great success. NM4Wheeler

members attending were Frank and Beth Whiston, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Mary and Craig Turpin, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, and guests Cory and Tiffany Ryan. Our trail leader was Jim Huff from the Las Cruces Four Wheel Drive Club. Jim's wife, Nancy, joined the group for the Sunday run. We all had a great time. Saturday we ran Amatista Ledges and Hopping Jalapeno. Sunday we did Upper Broad Canyon and White Gap.



Jim was an excellent trail guide and we appreciate him taking time to be our leader. All Jeeps survived without damage, even though Erwin and Cory got a chance to use their winches. It seems our trail leader has a continuing challenge with the infamous grease pit on Amatista Ledges! Nancy reported that Jim has slid into the pit before, and this trip claimed him again. We also were able to schedule both days' lunch stops right when the gale force winds were blowing!



During the run, Jim discussed an eight-day trip to Copper Canyon, Mexico that he had just returned from in February. He has led numerous trips to the canyon and other Mexico trips over the years. He is planning another trip to Copper Canyon over Christmas and New Years this year, 2006-2007. He has invited anyone from our group to go with him. I have a CD with 180 pictures from the February trip and will make copies for anyone who is interested. I'll send out a separate e-mail with more details on this trip and a trip to Casa Grande the end of March.

**Summer Quarterly Information**  
by Mark Wolf

Ok, folks! This is what you have all been waiting for! A location for our Summer Quarterly!! Let's go with it! Everyone is encouraged to make their own reservations ASAP. Check out the website. This is a nice place and you can even bring your fishing pole! The following details were provided to me by Ed Kausche:

+++++

Mark,

I think Ridgway State Park is our best bet. They have bathrooms, showers, and a place for our business meeting and for the dinner. I am recommending that we go for the sites with the full hook-ups (Loop G) as they are only \$4 more and there are many more of them than for the sites that must share water and sewer. There is also an area with tent sites (Loop H) that is not far away. There is also BLM land just across the road from the park where someone can camp for free if they don't want any services. (They will have to buy a vehicle pass, \$5 per day, if they want to come into the state park however.) Loop F is also a full hook-up site and is located very close to Loop G. Loop F would be an option if Loop G were to fill up.

The full hook-up sites (Loop G) cost \$25 per night. This includes \$5 for a vehicle pass. The shared water and sewer sites cost \$21 per night, also including the vehicle pass. I believe that tent sites (Loop H) cost \$17 per night.

Each RV site can accommodate an RV (this includes motor homes, travel trailers, and pop-ups) plus one tent, or two tents. The tent must sit on the ground, no pop-up with another RV. Also, no more than 6 people (not including babies and toddlers) can inhabit one site.

There is no parking right at the tent sites (Loop H). They share one common parking area and the actual tent site is some distance from the parking lot.

Each camper must make his own reservations. This can be done by calling 1-800-678-CAMP (2267), or through the web site: <http://www.parks.state.co.us/>.

Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on the green "Park Reservations Map" icon. This brings up a Colorado map with the campgrounds listed below. Click on Ridgway. This provides maps of the area and links to actually reserve a site.

Ed

**From the Historian**  
by Laurye Tanner

For those of you new to the club or those of you who are just cruising our web site; we have slide shows of our runs on the Internet. The new web site address for the club pictures:

[http://www.snapfish.com/thumbnaillshare/AlbumID=39110739/a=8290670/t\\_8290670;jsessionid=E7A51E2FFB3B84043C5D91D28A9217E1](http://www.snapfish.com/thumbnaillshare/AlbumID=39110739/a=8290670/t_8290670;jsessionid=E7A51E2FFB3B84043C5D91D28A9217E1)

It will change every time I add new slideshows. There are now 2 new slideshows of the Chile Challenge Winter Quarterly to view. If you do not want to personally register with Snapfish, you can use [nm4wphotos@earthlink.net](mailto:nm4wphotos@earthlink.net) as your login, and [jeepers](mailto:jeepers) as your password.

For those who are taking pictures on our trips, please e-mail me at [lauryetanner@earthlink.net](mailto:lauryetanner@earthlink.net), or give me a CD of the pictures you have taken. Please let me know the name of the event and who took the pictures. Remember to save your originals.



I hope we will be making a calendar to sale at the Summer Quarterly. Please e-mail me a picture you would like to see in the calendar. Again, I need to know who took the picture and where it was taken. I have a few pictures already. I will let the club vote on the ones that will go into our calendar.

Glenn and I are trying to get pictures of our members to add to the web site roster on the Member's Only Page. Please e-mail Glenn or me your picture if you would like it included on the roster. If you do not have a good picture; I will try to bring a camera at the next meeting and will be glad to take your picture there.

### **New Mexico International Auto Show** by Mark Werkmeister

We have committed to providing up to 25 vehicles for the Auto Show on April 23rd (that is the Sunday of the show). The vehicles need to be there by 9:00 am, and you won't be able to leave until 5 pm. Participants will receive a free ticket to enter the auto show inside the Convention Center.

Some people expressed reservation about the "show quality" of your vehicle. The promoters want to see "club" vehicles. If you are proud of your vehicle (and who isn't?), bring it on out and show it off.

This is a great opportunity to advertise our club with the enthusiast community, have a little fun, and maybe brag to a few strangers!

Here are a few things you need to know if you will be participating in the show:

- While on display, all show vehicles must have the positive battery cable disconnected and taped using UL approved plastic electrical tape.
- Proof of insurance (as stated in the Feature Space Contract) or pre-approved by show management waiver must be provided to the show office upon move in.
- A representative should be present during all public show hours, if possible.

- If the gas cap door can be opened from the outside of your vehicle, the vehicle must either have a locking gas cap or the cap must be taped. If the gas cap door can be locked from the inside of your car, then a locking gas cap is not necessary, but the standard inside gas cap must be taped.
- Cars using AC/DC converters must have the security system fuse disconnected to prevent the alarm from being accidentally set-off.
- Please provide in advance, a list of participant names that will be working in your display so they may gain admittance to the show for free, all show hours.

If you plan to trailer your vehicle to the show, the designated area to park the tow vehicles/trailers is located outside the Northeast Hall under the Marquette Street bridge at the convention center.

### **Trail Leaders and Tail Gunners** by Glenn Bontly

As you know, we are hosting the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association (SWFWDA) Summer Quarterly from 27 – 29 Jul in the Silverton/Ouray, CO area. Wolfie is the Event Chairman, and has several committees working for him to take care of the various details, such as registration, facilities, and meals. Our Trail Boss this year is Cliff Meier, and he needs several trail leaders and tail gunners to help with the trail rides.

"I've never led a trail", you may be thinking. "I'm not qualified to be a trail leader." Nonsense! Leading a trail is a piece of cake. The biggest thing is simply knowing where you are going. This is pretty easy in Colorado, cuz many of the trails are identified with signs. Besides, Cliff will provide you with the maps that you will need for your trail. GPS coordinates are also available for most of the trails, so if you have a receiver, you can just punch in the coordinates and follow along. In addition, you will likely want to pre-run the trail a week or two prior to the event.

So what else is involved with being a trail leader? Well, the first thing you need to do is gather everyone up for a driver's meeting. Introduce yourself and your tail gunner, announce the trail you are riding, the difficulty rating, and the CB radio channel. Inform everyone to keep the vehicle behind them in sight at all times and to announce to you if anyone has any problems during the ride that requires the group to stop. Although it's normally not a problem at these events, remind everyone that there will be no tolerance for alcohol on the trail, not by the driver or any of their passengers. Finally, remind everyone that they are totally responsible for the safety of themselves, their passengers, and their vehicles. Encourage them to bypass any obstacles they don't feel comfortable driving, although there won't be too many tough ones on the trails in this area.

Out on the trail, one of the biggest challenges as the trail leader is keeping the group together. In addition to everyone keeping everyone else in sight, this is accomplished by maintaining good lines of communication with your tail gunner. Ask the tail gunner periodically how the group is doing at the rear, and ask to be advised if there are any problems in the group (breakages or stuck). You may also want to designate someone you know and trust as a mid-gunner, especially if you have a large group.

Other than that, make sure you stop periodically for potty breaks, photo ops, and of course lunch. If you really want to impress your group, read up a little on the history of the trail and the area, and share this information along the way.

Okay, supposed you are just not comfortable enough to lead a group, but you think you will be able to handle being a tail gunner. What will you be responsible for? Your primary job is to keep the trail leader informed of the status of the group. If you see the group stopped in front you, immediately inform the leader. When making key turns during the trail, inform the trail leader once everyone has made the turn. You can also assist with spotting, if needed.

If you're still not sure about all of this, and would like some additional information, talk to someone in the club who has experience leading or tail gunning

trails. I'm sure they will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

**And remember, the trail leader eats no dust!**



- **Westin chrome side-steps for Ford Explorer SuperCab 2-door, '88-'05.** New, in unopened box, model 25-2110. \$175. Call Marcia Duggar at 505-850-7768.
- **Dana 30 Front Axle for TJ:** Complete, 4.56 gears, ARB Air Locker. Opened up and all components checked and OK, except for brake rotors which could stand to be resurfaced. Asking \$1000.00. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.
- **TJ Stuff:** Rubicon express 5.5" long arm kit complete with shocks, springs, bar pin eliminators, extended sway bar links and flat bottom belly-pan, \$1300 OBO. Complete Dana 30 with ARB and a Dana 35 open carrier for TJ's with 4.56 gears, \$700 OBO. Dana 60 rear housing custom built by Wagoner Machine shop- Dynatrac lo-pinion center section, 9" axle tubes and Dana 70 8-lug spindles and hubs. Estimated mounting width (WMS-WMS) of 65", \$500 OBO. Contact Dave Trappett at 505-615-5942.
- **Hi-Lift Jack & Camping Stuff:** 4-foot Hi-Lift Jack, \$25. Front seat from an '82 CJ-7, \$20. Camping stove, \$15. Lantern with carrying case, \$15. Contact Glenn Capener at 505-344-2656.
- **Steering, Fuel Tank, Tranny:** Redneck RAM steering box, \$250. Metal reinforced racing Toyota fuel tank, crash/impact resistant, \$100. Toyota 1988 G52 5-speed transmission, excellent condition, \$300. Ford Expedition or F-150 front tow hooks, \$30 pair, new. Contact Corey Ford at 505-249-5627 or 505-299-8313.

For more Classified Ads,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.nm4w.org/wanted-for\\_sale.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/wanted-for_sale.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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of *Trail Tales* is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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*, 21 Rattlesnake Ridge, Tijeras, NM 87059.

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 <a href="mailto:president@nm4w.org">president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Jeff Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:vice-president@nm4w.org">vice-president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:secretary@nm4w.org">secretary@nm4w.org</a>
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## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Apr 13	Club Meeting	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Apr 15 & 22	Auge's 4x4 101 Work Days	Call Pat Brady	505-898-6449
Apr 29	Auge's 4x4 101	Call Pat Brady	505-898-6449
May 6	4x4 & Camping Garage Sale	Call Mike Coe	540-896-1658
May 20	Chic Challenge -- Caja del Rio	Call Lauri Rector	505-891-8517

Trail Tales  
 21 Rattlesnake Ridge  
 Tijeras, NM 87059-7440





# Trail Tales



May 1, 2006

The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From April 13, 2006  
by Lauri Rector



Meeting was held in room 407 in the Heights Presbyterian Church. Mark Wolf (without Joan by his side) was our gracious host for the evening. Mark Werkmeister called the meeting to order at "7:00 sharp" by his watch (by my computer it was more like 7:04).

**Guests:** Again we had many guests join us. Mark gave them a big welcome and asked them to stand and introduce themselves: Stanley Ward – '80 CJ5, Mike Robertson & Kathy Wolf – '01 Landrover Discovery, Dave Marks – '02 TJ, Rance & Elizabeth Cochrane – '94 YJ, Keith & Linda Jurey – '98 TJ, Tony Lauderbaugh – '99 TJ.

**Members Present:** Baca, Bontly, Brady, Coe, Duggar, Eklund, Farrell, Finch, Hurt, Lavy (including the newest one), Markham, Marx, Miller, Moran, Peeples, Rector, Rodacy, Tanner, Wermeister, Whiston Jr., Wolf, & Woodard.

**Secretary's Report – Lauri Rector:** I started reading the meeting minutes and then someone woke up and made the motion to skip this part of the meeting. Everyone else then woke up and it the motion was approved.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** Wasn't present, but did let a few of us know that the balance in the checking account is \$1,954.40. I made a note of it and let everyone at the meeting know this.

**Vice President's Report – Jeff Rector:** It was a dull month and he had nothing to report and no fines to give out.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy:** Cliff Meier led some trail rides in Las Cruces, but wasn't present to report on it. Frank Whiston Jr. said he was there and they ran Amatista Ledges & Hopping Jalapeño. Their leader, Tom Huff, fell into the grease pit (oops!). They also ran Upper Broad Canyon and came out in Hatch.

Upcoming events: Auge's 4X4 101 – trail building this Saturday & next Saturday, and the actual event the following Saturday. Pat Brady reported that trail building starts at 9 and ends at 3. Be there an hour before the event starts (Pat forgot to bring the flier with him). The 23<sup>rd</sup> is the International Auto Show and our club is providing a 25-vehicle display outside the building. Be there an hour before the event starts. Mark Werkmeister e-mailed the event coordinators and they will send him additional passes so that all participants can get into the show for free (because we all like free stuff). We have to keep our vehicles there until at least 5 pm. Bring portable shade, chairs, lunch, and drinks (or you can buy them there at the concession stands). May 7<sup>th</sup> is the 4x4 Parts Swap Meet. Mike Coe has new flier and it is on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 4 pm. He'll get Glenn directions to put on the web site. He needs head count. 3 (count them), 3 hands went in the air. Then Marcia Duggar raised her hand there were 4. And then Mark Werkmeister raised his hand and we had 5 – but no wait - hold the phone, Mark wants a volunteer to take a couple truck loads of his stuff to the garage sale, sell it, give him the money, and bring back everything that didn't sell. Jeff volunteered to do this, but warned Mark that stuff might fall off of the truck and that he would be keeping anything he picked up off the street. I talked about the trail I was leading. I'm calling it the Chic Challenge in memory of the great trail that Marcia Duggar led a couple of years ago. In fact, I decided that I should run the exact same

trail, but at a time of year that it would be drier and easier, with no snow and ice. I'll be leading Caja del Rio and La Bajada Hill. I'm encouraging women to drive, but males are welcome. We'll meet at the Conoco at 550 and 528 with a short driver meeting at 8:55 and should leave by 9:00. Bring lunch, shade, spray bottles with cold water, sun screen, and anything else that will make this long day more comfortable for you.

**Director of Environmental Affairs Report – Bob Norton:** Was not present. Mark Wolf asked Mark Werkmeister if he had an update on Dona Ana. Mark Werkmeister said that the bill that Pete Domenici proposed has been pulled off the table and is dead at this time. Resource Management Plans are out for review (which includes Gordy's Hill). Mike Bilbo is getting negative feedback from residents about Gordy's Hill. So be sure to talk him up whenever you get a chance.

**Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx:** Jerry explained the 50/50 raffle to the guests getting all the optional pricing for the tickets exactly right this time. Edelbrock t-shirt will be raffled off as well. T-shirts and hats are for sale. If you are wearing club clothing you get one 1 free ticket (and yes, we do like free stuff).

**Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner:** She brought her camera to take pictures of people who want to have their picture on the club roster.

**Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Had nothing to offer. His month must have been as dull as Vice Presidents.

**Old Business:** Summer quarterly will be in Ridgway, Colorado and camping will be available at the Ridgway State Park. It's real big and real nice. Mark Wolf has reserved, at loop G, a covered picnic area for the dinner on Saturday. If you bring a vehicle in the park, you will have to pay \$5, even if you're not camping there. He suggested that people car pool or something to avoid paying the fee. He has the phone number and website with him so you can write it down and make your reservations. \$20 (for the site) + \$8 (for the reservation fee) = \$88 for 4 nights for full hookups, plus another \$5 (for the forestry fee). Mike Coe

contacted Chamber of Commerce, but no one is there. So we don't know what the Saturday dinner is going to be or the price. The dates are July 27, 28, & 29<sup>th</sup>. Weather wise, you should be able to start pre-running by July 4<sup>th</sup>. He has sign up sheets for trail leaders and gunners. Jason Lavy will get hotel info out on the web site. Marcia Duggar wanted to confirm if we were having a raffle and Mark Wolf said that it is not confirmed yet.

Laurye Tanner asked Mark Wolf if the fall quarterly had a run on Saturday. Jeff Rector accused her of being nosy. Mark Wolf seemed to think that they did. I brought up Tom Woods and renewing our club in their club sponsorship program. It was decided that no vote was needed. I will follow up with it. Pat Brady talked about the people that will be doing the speeches/lectures at the Auge's 4X4 101. By the following Wednesday, he needs for all of us to rewrite our part so that he can get it to Auge's for them to have the hand outs printed and assembled. He has last years book for a starting basis for those who were stupid (I mean kind) enough to volunteer for this part of the event. He listed all of the implements of destruction that he needs for volunteers to bring that are helping with building the obstacle course. He got a show of hands on who would be there (wow – it was more than 3).

**New Business:** Cliff Meier sent Glenn Bontly CD's of Copper Canyon to share with people. And seconds later they were all gone. Next, Mark Werkmeister asked for volunteers to host the summer club meetings:

Tanner – July  
Peoples – August  
Lavy – September

E-mails will go out to see if we can get someone to volunteer for May and June. (As of this date, Kevin Cox volunteered to host the May meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>, and Jordan Sousa volunteered to host the June meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>).

Sue Brady asked if the club has thought of something to do for Memorial Day Weekend. Jemez was discussed, as well as "Will it be open?" Will need to wait until closer to that weekend to see



what the fire dangers are and if they keep any of the forests open.

I brought up that we should go to Gordy's Hill after the Auge's 4X4 101. I got some objections since this should have been brought up during the Trip Chairman's report. Ok, I'm tired, I'm trying to type, I had already brought up 2 other things. Can someone cut me a break, please!!!!?????

A donation to the church was brought up. I think that it was decided to table this, but I'm not sure. If you want to know, please contact someone else that was at the meeting and wasn't being bugged by the Vice President about who could be voted in.


Jeff Rector said that Dave Marx was eligible to be voted in. Someone made the motion and it was passed. Welcome Dave!!! Good to have you as a new member.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

**Winners of the raffle:**

- Tony Lauderbaugh – Currie t-shirt
- Eric Finch – t-shirt
- Jeffery Woodward – t-shirt

And Debbie Farrell was the big winner of the 50/50--\$40 for her to take home and \$40 for the club to keep.



**President's Report**  
By Mark Werkmeister

Greetings from the President! I would like to extend a big thank-you to everyone who attended the club's "2nd Street Canyon Adventure" on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. For those of you that were in attendance, you know that I am referring to the club display at the Albuquerque International Auto Show. We had a great turn-out and the day, while rather warm and windy, provided lots of opportunity for socializing with club members. The display looked really good and we got a lot of exposure with the local automotive public.

I'm sure that Pat would also like to thank everyone who came out for the two workdays to prepare for

the upcoming 4x4 101 at Auges. While I won't be able to attend the event next Saturday, I am confident the club will continue to do a great job of growing this event. 4x4 101 also gives us great exposure with potential future members of the club and helps us cement a productive relationship with a great Jeep dealership.

Continuing the "thank you" theme, I would also like to thank Kevin and Charly Cox and Jordan Sousa for volunteering to host the first two potluck meetings this summer. Check out the Events Schedule for the all of the details. I may not be able to attend the next two meetings due to other commitments, but I am sure that you will enjoy heckling the esteemed Sheriff/VP as he stands in for me. Also, don't forget the Swap Meet on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Mike Coe has all of the details!

Now, get out and 'wheel and have some fun (no wait, that is the same thing)!

Mark

**Camping Season is Here Again!**  
by Glenn Bontly

Although it was several years ago, I'll never forget the summer they closed all of the National Forests because of the extreme fire danger. We couldn't go camping or jeeping anywhere in the state, it seemed. Completely frustrated with the situation, I remember organizing a ride to the Rio Puerco one weekend. And to make the most of it, I brought my camper out the night before, set up camp, grilled up some burgers, and spent the night in the vacant lot next to the Walgreen's near Southern and Unser! Needless to say, I got quite a few stares from passers by.

Then, of course, there's Auge's 4x4 101. For the past couple of years, I've brought my camper out the night before, had dinner at Pete's Café (great Mexican food), and spent the night in the vacant lot next to the dealership. I told everyone it was so I wouldn't have to get up so early on Saturday morning (it takes over an hour to get to Auge's from my house). But the truth be known, I just really like camping, albeit in a redneck sort of way. Starting

last year, some of us went down to Gordy's Hill after the 101 event and spent another night. That was great!

Have you ever noticed the handful of RV's in your local Wal-Mart parking lot on any given evening? It's common knowledge that Wal-Mart welcomes these overnight visitors in hopes that they will spend some money in the store during their visit. In turn, the RV'er saves money by not having to pay for a campground. I've spent many a night in Wal-Mart parking lots myself. There are a few courtesies one should abide by while "camping" at Wally World. First of all, it's not "camping"; it's just an overnight stop. You should arrive late in the evening and depart early the next morning. In other words, you should NOT appear to be a long-term resident! But one day when I didn't have anything better to do, I decided to have a little fun with the Wally World camping thing. My original plan was to take up a half dozen or so parking spots right up in front of the store, extend my awning, put out my fake grass carpet, pull out my grill and lawn chair, and commence to "camp out" for a while. I also thought it would be fun to "check in" with the store manager and ask where were the slots with "hook-ups". Can you imagine the looks I would have receive from people wondering what the heck I was doing? Well, it didn't work out exactly as I planned. I did set my stuff up one afternoon, but it was in the outer lot. And I was too chicken to pull out my grill and cook burgers!

As I write this from my office, midday on Friday, I'm looking outside my window at my camper with Jeep in tow, ready to head down to Auge's for the 2006 4x4 101 event, just a soon as I can sneak away for the afternoon. Of course, I am planning to stop at a Wal-Mart on the way down to pick up a few things. It's just not a real camping trip without at least one Wal-Mart stop to pick up a few things that you "forgot" to pack. And I am already looking forward to a Taco plate at Pete's this evening. Afterwards, I'll likely sit outside and watch the cars drive up and down Main Street. I'm sure several people will be staring at me, but I don't care. And then after the event on Saturday, we're going back down to Gordy's again. That means we can have a camp fire (the store managers don't like it when you start fires in the Wal-Mart parking lot)! And we'll

have a potluck, and go wheelin' on Sunday. I can't wait!

On the other hand, I can't help thinking about the long dry winter we had this year, and wonder when they are going to close all of the forests again. But that's okay, I'm sure we can find some place to go. And I know of several good places to camp!

### **Auge's 4x4 101**

by Lauri Rector

I think that this was the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Auge's 4X4 101. We're still not sure why Robert Auge would do this for a 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, seeing as it doesn't seem to draw too many people. But, we all like to hang out with each other for a day, especially when we get to take new Jeeps and our own Jeeps over an obstacle course that we built.

Robert was very generous again with raffle prizes and goody bags. Raffle prizes consisted of a coffee maker, several Jeep floor mats, and a Chrysler back pack. He also put out donuts for breakfast. This year he let club members drive the volunteered vehicles over to the track area. Please be sure to read the June Trail Tails to see who had difficulties with the assigned task. Pat Brady did a good job on organizing the lectures and mixed them up just a little bit this time over past years. He also did another great job on the obstacle course. As well, all the people volunteering with the lectures and obstacle building did a great job.

I think that the "participant" that got the most attention was a 4 month old beagle puppy named Owen. He was one of the most adorable little puppies any of us have seen, with his big floppy ears and big brown eyes, extremely curious and very friendly. Poor little guy had a really long day. At first, we thought that the sight of Wolfie scared him, but it turns out that all the yelping was because Wolfie stepped on him (now that's got to hurt!). Then out at the track area, he stepped on an ant and got an ouie on his paw. Sue Brady and I got to sit and baby him for a while.

The obstacle course was a lot of fun again this year. The boy scouts that served us lunch were doing all

the riding in all of the vehicles that they could. Mike & Kristy Coe and Pat Brady had their Jeeps out and taking passengers for rides through the course all afternoon. A lot of people had the new Commander out and it performed very well. Tony Lauderbaugh got pretty greedy with the Rubicon Unlimited, seeing as I had to wait for ever to take it out. When I finally got my chance, I had a blast and a whole lot of adrenaline going through me. This thing made it over all the obstacles in spite of its operator. Some of the Auge employees brought their rigs out to play too. One got his Dodge truck stuck on an obstacle. It took both Glenn Bontly and Chuck Peeples in their TJ's to get him off. Another one got his Wagoneer (that looked a lot like Wolfie's old one) stuck on another obstacle. We all thought that it was Wolfie the way he was screaming like a girl – Help me! Help me! Pat Brady got the ultimate rig to take through the obstacle course though – the golf cart. But, it had to have at least 3 people occupying it to make it – with the 3<sup>rd</sup> one standing in the back.

I don't know if we helped Robert Auge sell any Jeeps, but let me tell you, we all had a lot of fun!

### **Gordy's Hill**

by Lauri Rector

Well, as Auge's 4X4 101 started coming to an end, we realized that we only had 3 Jeeps going to Gordy's Hill. This really isn't a bad thing, unless you're having a potluck. I suggested that maybe we could go into Socorro and go out to eat. Everyone liked the idea, except for Glenn, who had no idea how he would get rid of the huge amount of potato salad that he had brought for the potluck.

We arrive around 3:30 or so Saturday afternoon. We got our campers all leveled and situated, and decided that maybe we had a 'nuf wheelin' at Auge's. So beer was opened as well as salsa and chips. After stuffing ourselves on this and having a great conversation, we decided to go the Frank and Lupe's. I learned that Paul can be as trusted as Wolfie at knowing where the good places are to eat. This place is really well decorated with great ambience. The service was really good too – you

were never really wanting for anything. And the food was great and at very good prices.

When we got back to camp, we helped carry wood from Glenn's trailer to the camp fire area, got our chairs, and settled in and hoped the wind would die down once the sun set, and it did. By the time we talked for a while and enjoyed the fire for too short of period, it was bed time.

The next day was absolutely beautiful. Nice and cool with lots of sunshine. By 9:15 we decided that no one else was going to be coming, so we headed out. Jeff wanted to go on the 1<sup>st</sup> trail that Mark took us on. He wanted to check out the huge rocks that you have to drive down at a very serious down hill slant. He was more than happy to let Glenn lead the way. This obstacle has filled in with sand somewhat. Although it is challenging, it just isn't as extreme as it was. We continued on the trail and went to the south side of the Scenic By-way to have lunch down in the arroyo under some nice cottonwood trees. All of us had some potato salad to go with what we brought for lunch – it was delicious!!

Then we took the easy trails over to the tanker to check out if anything had been done with the abandoned mine that was recently found there. There were 4 poles (that were set far enough apart to drive a Jeep through them) and one had a sign attached saying that there was an unstable geographic site in the area and to stay out. However the sign faced into the area rather than out to warn approaching people. We turned the sign around and placed rocks behind it so that hopefully it wouldn't turn again. Then we went over to the "hole in the wall, I mean the hole in the rock" as Glenn called it. I think they should have just called it the hole in the rock. After checking this out with flash lights, we decided to head out to Cat Fight and end the day after we run it. Then Jeff went, uh oh (which seems to always cost us money) and said that he blew up a U-joint. So we just got back on the By-way the easiest way possible and headed back to camp.

I got this article written just in time for everyone to find out what they missed last weekend. The weather just couldn't have been any better. It was a



really great short weekend with a little bit of camping, a little bit of 4-wheeling and a lot of camaraderie. Wished you were there.

## **Responsible Four-Wheeling Mandatory to Save Recreational Opportunities**

by Bob Norton

*(For those of you who weren't able to make it to Auge's 4x4 101 this past weekend, you missed out on several good discussions, as well as test driving all the latest Jeep models. As space permits, I will share with you some of the articles from the information booklet that was used during the event. This first piece regarding Responsible 4-Wheeling comes to you courtesy of Bob Norton)*

Some of you may be brand new to enjoying the rewarding experiences that awaits you in using your 4-wheel drive vehicle. Or, perhaps you already know that your 4x4 will allow you and your families and friends to travel backcountry roads and 4x4 trails to remote, scenic, historical, cultural, and other special places. And if the road is a bit challenging so that you must use 4-wheel drive, so much the better. It adds to the excitement and adventure!

We have been accustomed to the freely traveling the routes on public lands. But, times have changed. Extreme groups are fighting constantly to eliminate motorized access on these long used roads and trails. And these "closurists" have been quite successful in getting road closures implemented.

Why? Largely because they are well funded and most diligent. Too, many of us that enjoy motorized recreation have not spoken up to insist that these backcountry roads, routes, and trails really ought to remain open for our continued access and use. And perhaps, most importantly, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) and Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV) users are suffering from a bit of an image problem.

We have all seen the TV commercials showing SUVs tearing across various landscapes, spraying rocks, splashing mud onto hikers, and so on. Is this responsible 4-Wheeling? Absolutely not! With the

excellent capabilities of our 4WD vehicles and with prudent driving and planning, it is completely unnecessary.

Land managers for agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are responsible for prudent management of the many and varied resources under their jurisdictions. But when faced with increased resource damage due to irresponsible OHV abuse, too many of these land managers are prone to take the easy way out. And that is to merely limit or close roads and 4x4 trails.

Many new management plans are currently being reviewed for our public lands. Keep in mind that those pushing the "closurist" agenda are an extreme minority of citizens. Inappropriately, they call themselves "environmentalists". Their wish is to greatly expand the elimination of motorized (4x4 vehicles, ATVs, trail bikes) and mechanized (mountain bikes) recreational users from public lands. Truthfully, the "real" environmentalists and conservationists are the majority of Americans. These are the folks that favor a balanced multiple-use and environmentally responsible land management approach. The land managers must hear from us.

Another element working to close roads are the minority of Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) users that do not respect the land. Indiscriminate vehicle tracks that branch off from existing routes are selfish and certainly malicious. Such violations destroy the beauty of an area for all other responsible visitors. Damaged vegetation may take years to recover, perhaps not in our lifetimes. Cross-country travel should only take place in appropriate areas where it is allowed. That is, "OHV special use areas" or designated "open" areas.

Each of us that travels the backcountry must take the initiative to ensure that we keep our tire tracks on the existing roadways. We must adhere to proper camping etiquette. And, we must educate the public, our children, plus our "neighbors" children on proper OHV use on public lands. (Such education might just filter upward and change the ways of a few OHV derelict adults!) We will only

be able to slow significant further restrictions if we, the 4x4/OHV community, minimize or attempt to eliminate abuse. The slogans of an organization called TREAD LIGHTLY!" and the "Leave No Trace" program are most appropriate and serve as a guide as to how we should operate our 4-wheel drive vehicles. For example, attempt to climb a rocky ledge or cross a wet section on the 4x4 trail as slow as possible. Speed and spinning tires may damage the roadway and could break the vehicle. Going fast is rarely necessary.

Proper backcountry trail etiquette is very important to preserve shared use. Keep in mind that 4x4 drivers yield to all of the following users that are met on the trail, or whom approach at a faster pace from the rear: motorcycles, ATV's, mountain bikes, hikers, and persons on horseback. When 4-wheeling in desert or dry areas, offer muscle powered recreationists you meet additional water. They could be critically low on this necessity, in fact. Respect all other users and respect the land. Haul out your trash plus other trash you might find along the trail to improve the beauty of our lands.

So what can you do as a new owner of a 4-wheel drive vehicle or a novice 4-wheeler? Find out if the BLM and USFS are updating land management plans for areas that you like to visit. Write a letter to the appropriate Field Office Supervisors informing them that you are interested in traveling the backcountry 4x4 routes in areas under their office's jurisdictions. Ask to be placed on their mailing lists to be informed of management planning changes that will come up for public review. Write to your Senators and Congresspersons to support OHV use on public lands when major policy changes are proposed by Federal land management agencies. Join an active 4x4 club, such as the NM 4-Wheelers. Join other organizations such as the "BlueRibbon Coalition" or regionally-specific organizations that promote access for all on public lands. Perhaps, join an Internet land access mail list to become better informed of current or "hot" issues.

It is up to each of us to do our part to insure future access on backcountry roads that provide so much satisfaction for our families and friends. Be more involved and informed in land access management

issues. But above all, recreate with your 4x4 vehicle in an environmentally-responsible manner.



- **GMC Jimmy G-80 Rear End:** \$60. Call Jeffery at 505-296-8585.
- **Westin chrome side-steps for Ford Explorer SuperCab 2-door, '88-'05.** New, in unopened box, model 25-2110. \$175. Call Marcia Duggar at 505-850-7768.
- **Dana 30 Front Axle for TJ:** Complete, 4.56 gears, ARB Air Locker. Opened up and all components checked and OK. Asking \$1,000.00. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.
- **Hi-Lift Jack & Camping Stuff:** 4-foot Hi-Lift Jack, \$25. Front seat from an '82 CJ-7, \$20. Camping stove, \$15. Lantern with carrying case, \$15. Contact Glenn Capener at 505-344-2656.
- **Steering, Fuel Tank, Tranny:** Redneck RAM steering box, \$250. Metal reinforced racing Toyota fuel tank, crash/impact resistant, \$100. Toyota 1988 G52 5-speed transmission, excellent condition, \$300. Ford Expedition or F-150 front tow hooks, \$30 pair, new. Contact Corey Ford at 505-249-5627 or 505-299-8313.
- **4.0 liter engine,** out of 1988 Cherokee, high mileage (198k), \$250. AW4 four-speed automatic also high mileage (includes flexplate and converter), \$300. Package deal! Aforementioned engine and transmission together with complete wiring harness and computer, \$500. Swap the whole shebang into the vehicle of your choice! Also lots of other odds and ends from 1988 Cherokee Laredo. Gather an armload and make me a (really cheap) offer. Contact Mark at 505-891-0296.

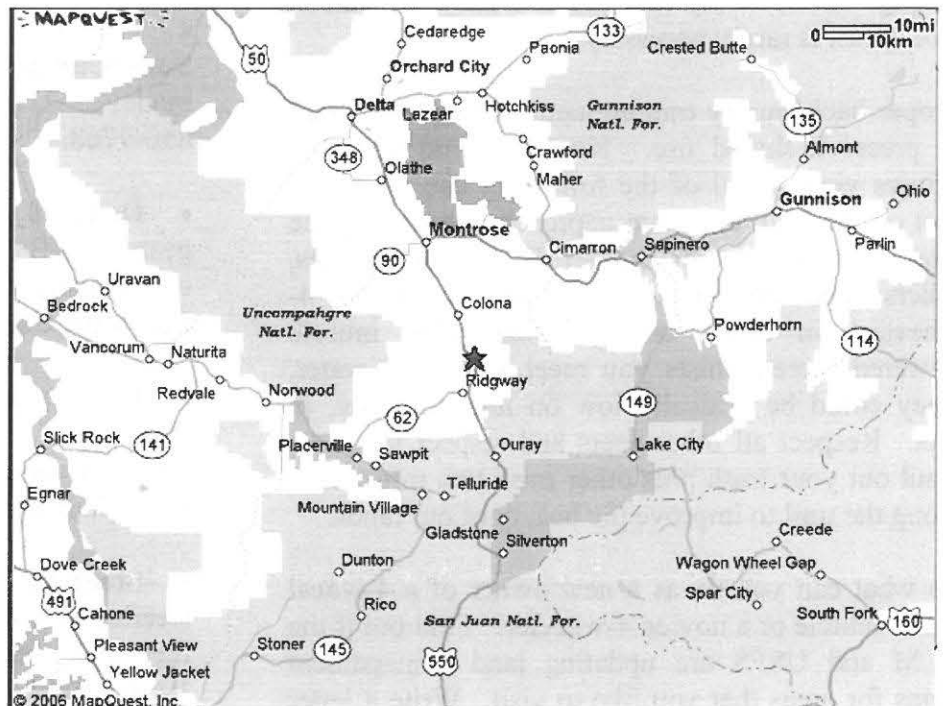
**For more Classified Ads,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.nm4w.org/wanted-for\\_sale.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/wanted-for_sale.htm)**

# SWFWDA Summer Quarterly Meeting 2006

July 27 – 29, 2006; Ridgway, Colorado  
Hosted by New Mexico 4-Wheelers



Ridgway State Park will be the headquarters for the SWFWDA 2006 Summer Quarterly. Basing this event in Ridgway, between Montrose and Ouray, allows us easy access to some of the most popular trails in Colorado via the Silverton/Ouray trail system. We will be enjoying the vast network of alpine trails that is centered around Ouray, Telluride, and Silverton including Poughkeepsie, Gulch, Black Bear & Imogene Passes, Yankee Boy, Governor and Richmond Basins, Imogene and Ophir Passes and more. Extreme scenery and rich local history can be expected on these trails, most of which are easy or moderate. Bring your cameras since July is a great time to see the Colorado Columbine in bloom. People looking for a little more challenge are encouraged to check out the serious trails in the Montrose area close by, although these will not be considered part of the event.



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Wednesday, 26 July 2006

5-8 pm On-Site Registrations & Trail Sign-Up for Thursday

### Thursday, 27 July 2006

7-9 am On-Site Registrations & Trail Sign-Up for Today

9-10 am Trail Rides Depart (Note: Selected longer trails will be departing at 8:30 am.)

6-8 pm On-Site Registrations & Trail Sign-Up for Saturday

### Friday, 28 July 2006

7-9 am On-Site Registrations & Trail Sign-Up for Today

9-10 am Trail Rides Depart (Note: Selected longer trails will be departing at 8:30 am.)

6-8 pm On-Site Registrations & Trail Sign-Up for Saturday

### Saturday, 29 July 2006

7 am SWFWDA Quarterly Meeting **Please be sure to have your member club represented!**

7-9 am On-Site Registrations & Trail Sign-Up for Today

9-10 am Trail Rides Depart (only AFTER the Business Meeting concludes)

6-8 pm Dinner

For more information, visit [www.nm4w.org](http://www.nm4w.org) or call Mark Wolf at 505-856-8539. For additional information on area Hotels, Motels, & RV Parks, please contact: Ridgway Chamber of Commerce at (800) 220-4959, or visit <http://www.Ridgwaycolorado.com>, [www.ouraycolorado.com](http://www.ouraycolorado.com), or [www.montrose-colo.com](http://www.montrose-colo.com).

## LODGING INFO

### Ridgway State Park

Make your own reservations ASAP as it is first come - first served - call 1-800-678-CAMP(2267) or visit the website at <http://www.parks.state.co.us/default.asp?parkID=88&action=park> Spaces are \$20 for full hook-up, \$16 with electricity only Plus \$5 for vehicle pass for any vehicle that enters the park, even if not staying. Event fee is separate (see registration form on next page).

BLM land just across the road from the park is also available for dry camping. You will still need a \$5 pass to enter the state park.

**Directions** – From Montrose: Take U.S. 550 south for 22 miles to the park entrance. From Ouray, take U.S. 550 north to Ridgway and continue for 6 miles.



# SWFWDA Summer Quarterly Meeting 2006

July 27- 29, 2006 Ridgway, Colorado

## Official Registration Form

### OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry #: \_\_\_\_\_

Paid in Full? Yes No

Amount Still Owed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Vehicle Information

Year: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Model: \_\_\_\_\_

License Plate #: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ (required)

Please complete one form per vehicle and return with payment to:

New Mexico 4-Wheelers  
P.O. Box 90154  
Albuquerque, NM 87199-0154

### Personal Information

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(for pre-registration confirmation notification)

SWFWDA Member? Yes No

Club Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration Information

Only official registration forms will be accepted (Photocopy reproductions are OK). Registration is open to licensed and insured vehicles only. Registrations will be accepted by mail or in person only – no phone or fax.

### Fee Information

\_\_\_\_\_ vehicles x \$60.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(includes 2 Saturday evening meal tickets)

\_\_\_\_\_ additional Saturday evening meal  
Adult tickets x \$15.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Child tickets x \$10.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Land Action Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your Registration by June 30, 2006 to assist us with Dinner planning. Make checks payable to: New Mexico 4-Wheelers. Thank you.

### Cancellation Policy

All cancellations must be received in writing before 5 pm MST July 14, 2006 to receive a refund. After July 14, 2006, no refunds will be issued.

**RELEASE & WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

*(Please complete and sign this form, and return it with your registration)*

In consideration of being permitted to participate in the events of the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association(hereinafter called SWFWDA) Summer Quarterly Meeting, sponsored by the SWFWDA and hosted by the New Mexico 4-Wheelers (hereinafter called NM4W), the undersigned participant, for himself/herself, personal representatives, heirs, and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASED the SWFWDA and NM4W officers, members, assisting clubs, and commercial sponsors (hereinafter called Sponsors) of all liability to the undersigned, whether caused by the negligent act or omission of the Sponsors or otherwise while the undersigned is participating in such event(s). It is fully understood by each of the undersigned that there is inherent risk associated with this event, including damage to vehicles and persons.

In addition, the undersigned participant AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS the Sponsors from any loss, liability, damage, or costs incurred due to such participation by the undersigned, whether caused by Sponsors' negligence or otherwise while the undersigned is participating in this event(s).

In signing this release, each of the undersigned hereby acknowledges and represents the following:

1. That he/she shall at all times, while riding in a vehicle participating in this event, will wear his/her respective seatbelt.
2. That the owner/driver certifies that he/she has inspected this vehicle and same is in good mechanical condition and is properly insured.
3. That the owner/driver has informed himself/herself about the event(s) and trail(s) involved in the event(s), either by prior participation or by investigation into the event(s) and trail(s).

WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS. For a participant under the age of 18 years, a parent with legal custody or the minor's legal guardian must sign this release form and write the word "minor" and age next to the minor's name.

Vehicle (year, make, model)	Driver's License # & State	Today's Date
Owner/Driver Printed Name	Signature	
Participant Printed Name	Signature	
Participant Printed Name	Signature	
Participant Printed Name	Signature	

## 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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of Trail Tales is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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, 21 Rattlesnake Ridge, Tijeras, NM 87059.

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 <a href="mailto:president@nm4w.org">president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Jeff Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:vice-president@nm4w.org">vice-president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:secretary@nm4w.org">secretary@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Paul Thompson 293-8390 <a href="mailto:treasurer@nm4w.org">treasurer@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Jerry Marx 922-9370 <a href="mailto:program-chairman@nm4w.org">program-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Laurye Tanner 281-0994 <a href="mailto:historian@nm4w.org">historian@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Trip Chairman</b> Jason Lavy 792-8035 <a href="mailto:trip-chairman@nm4w.org">trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <a href="mailto:environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a>	<b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!



## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
May 6	Club Meeting at the Cox House	Call Kevin Cox	505-897-7713
May 7	4x4 Swap Meet	Call Mike Coe	505-896-1658
May 20	Chic Challenge -- Caja del Rio	Call Lauri Rector	505-891-8517
Jun 10	Club Meeting at the Sousa House	Call Jordan Sousa	505-873-4009
Jun 16 - 18	Zuni Mountain Trip	Call Frank Whiston Jr.	505-292-1541

Trail Tales  
 21 Rattlesnake Ridge  
 Tijeras, NM 87059-7440

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# Trail Tales



June 1, 2006

The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From May 6, 2006

by Lauri Rector



Meeting was held at a house of Kevin & Charly Cox. It was vacant, so rest assured that there were no damages done by club members to any of their furnishings. Jeff Rector was filing in for our missing El Presidente, Mark Werkmeister. Jeff called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm sharp (this happens when I have no second hand on my clock).

**Guests:** Roger & Barbara Hall '87 YJ & '81 CJ7, Cory & Tiffany Ryan – '97 TJ, Kenneth Gaw '99 TJ, Kathy Wolf & Mike Robertson '01 Land Rover Discovery, Tom & Carrie Phillips '04 Rubicon.

**Members Present:** Bontly, Coe, Cox, Duggar, Kausche, Peeples, Rector, Rodacy, Simenson, Sousa, Thompson, Whiston (Frank G), Wolf.

**Secretary's Report – Lauri Rector:** I don't think that I had anything to say. There's nothing in my notes.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** \$1,955.50 – he has people with outstanding fines – see him after the meeting.

**Vice President's Report – Jeff Rector:** Fines were levied against Wolfie for stepping on little Owen at Auge's 4x4 101, Carlos Tanner – 2, Health Hislop – leaking fluids and leaving the Car Show early, Bob Norton for bringing that 1960's psychedelic Hippie chair to the Car Show.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy:** Not present, but that didn't prevent us from talking about past and future events. Future Events: On May 19<sup>th</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>, Mike Coe will be at the Arch

View Campground in Moab. Come join him if you can. Paul Thompson & Chuck Peeples are going to Caballo Lake this Tuesday. On Saturday they will run that trail. Camping will be at the riverside campground – south of the damn, in the normal spot with the good bathrooms with showers. Frank G Whiston will do an exploratory run in the Zuni Mountains on the 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> of June. He will base out of Blue Water State Park where there is camping. (As of this writing, the Zuni Mountain trip has been cancelled due to the fire danger). I talked about the Chic Challenge. Read the trip report later in this issue.

**Past Events:** I talked some about the Gordy's Hill and Auge's 4X4 101. And then, for some reason, I also talked about the International Car Show (I can chew gum and walk, but, I have not yet mastered how to type and talk, so I have no notes on what I said). Wolfie said that he was very impressed with Justin Simenson at the Auge's 4X4 101 and how hard he pushed all of the new vehicles that Robert Auge offered up to us (he about scared me away from trying any of them – I haven't seen that much air since the Balloon Fiesta!!).

**Director of Environmental Affairs Report – Bob Norton:** Not Present. Mark Wolf wanted to talk about the notice that Mark Werkmeister e-mailed to everyone about on the Nature Conservancy, who the Forestry department has chosen to help them "take care" of the Forests. Write letters now, this is the worst thing that can happen.

**Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx:** Not Present.

**Historian's Report – Laurie Tanner:** Not Present.

**Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Web site is still there and it works. We also have a monthly newsletter, it's called the Trail Tales.

**Old Business:** Marcia Duggar is starting to get in registrations for the Summer Quarterly. It's in Ridgway and camping is available at Ridgway State Park – Loop G. Full hook-ups are \$20 per night, you need to make reservations early. Tent camping is also available at a lower price. There are hotels in Ridgway and Ouray. Pre-runs are scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> (or any other time that you can make it). The committee is still in need of trail leaders and tail gunners, about 5 or 6 more. The catered meal will be on Saturday Night. Mike Coe is in charge of this and has nothing to say about this as no one is returning his calls or e-mails. Mike's wondering how we set the registration price without him knowing how much meals cost – is he on a budget?

The Swap Meet is tomorrow. We have been assigned to spaces HI24-HI29. It starts at 8am. There is room in our spaces if you have any "junk" (oops, I mean 4X4 parts) you'd like to sell.

**New Business:** Unanimously, Cory & Tiffany Ryan and Tom & Carrie Phillips were voted in and are now proud members of NM4W. What an honor for them!!! (Oops again, the NM4W is honored to have all of you as members of our club - welcome).

**THINGS FORGOTTEN – Anyone that forgot to mention something at the appropriate time during the meeting:** Chuck wants to talk about Memorial Weekend (this should have been discussed during the Trip Chairman's report). He wants to go ahead and plan on going to the Jemez, even if it seems that forest closure is a real possibility. If the gate is locked, there will not be any camping. Kristy Coe asked about what was being done on 4<sup>th</sup> of July as she thought that was when the club was going to the Jemez. Wolfie suggested that she lead something that weekend.

And, then, back to **NEW BUSINESS:** Jeff Rector, our pretend president (which means he doesn't have to write a "President's Report"), reminded everyone to be thinking about officers and who they would nominate, or if they would be willing to be

nominated. Did I really hear Jeff say that he doesn't want to be Vice President for like the 40<sup>th</sup> year in a row? Voting will be in July and new Officers, Chairs, and Directors duties begin on August 1. (Please strongly consider taking up some of your free time for 1 year for the benefit of the club. It takes "active" member to make our club as vital as it is!!).

A big thanks to Kevin & Charly for hosting the meeting for us, and at a time when we didn't have a host just less than 30 days before the meeting. Kevin wants help cleaning up after the meeting, such as taking something home with you from the garage. He will be giving away various "door prizes" out there. Things that Charly doesn't want moved to their new home (and after seeing it all, I can see why).

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.



## President's Report

By Mark Werkmeister

Hello everybody!

I trust that everyone had a fine four-wheeling Memorial Day weekend. With summer upon us, it is time to go topless (that means put the soft tops away!) and think about volunteering yourself for one of the many officer positions that keep our club humming along. The club provides all of us a lot in terms of activities, insights, and camaraderie. Please give a few minutes thought to volunteering to be nominated for an officer position. Serving your club and fellow members gives all of us a chance to give a little back to the club that means so much to many of us. If you are wondering if you have the expertise necessary, do worry about it. Past officers are always willing to lend a hand and thoughtful advice to the newer officers.

I talked to Mike Bilbo of the Socorro office BLM last week. The Draft Revision of the Resource Management Plan is not out yet for public review, it is still being finished up by the contractor who is



putting the draft document together. Mike was guessing that it might be out toward the end of May (which is already here) but we will be notified when it comes out. I will be heading down to Socorro on one of the first Mondays in June to review the trail map with Mike (at his invitation) to ensure that all our intended routes are still included on the map.

So rip off those tops (soft tops, Wolfie!), bask in the sunshine, pray for rain for our forests, and we will see you at the June meeting!

Mark

**Member Spotlight:**  
**Jordan Sousa**  
by Joan Wolf



What brought Jordan Sousa, avid sailor and fisherman, from Tampa Bay to the desert? “Five hurricane evacuations in one year”, he explains. It wasn’t an easy decision for someone who “loves being in, on, or near water”. However, when a job transfer became available six months ago, Jordan moved west to high, dry land. Elizabeth (Betsy) Gunderson, his significant other and a Jeep driver in her own right, moved here one month ago.

Since two favorite pastimes are taking scenic drives and camping, Jordan was happy to find the NM4W website. Jordan enjoyed the 2006 Chile Challenge, one of his first NM4W wheeling adventures. While at Cruces, he squeezed in time for ghost-town

hunting, another leisure pursuit. So far, Jordan and Betsy love the New Mexico weather, scenery, and proximity to the mountains.

Bristol, Rhode Island is Jordan’s hometown and he grew up loving to fish and sail. The Jeep thing started 20 years ago when Jordan was living in Maine and bought a CJ-7. This was pre-GPS, so he set off with topo maps and the CJ to explore logging roads and fire trails in western Maine. Jordan also bought a sailboat in Maine and used it often for four months of the year. But eight months in dry dock was too much, so he and Betsy moved to Tampa Bay for year-round sailing opportunities.

Jordan has a varied work background. His education is in social work and business. After college, he worked in a group home (where he met Betsy), taught cross-country skiing, owned a motorcycle repair business in San Diego, managed a garment industry plant, ran a homeless shelter, and owned and operated a boat rental and charter fishing business in Tampa Bay. “I loved it even though it was my hardest job ever,” recalls Jordan about the boat business.

For the past eight years, Jordan has worked as a Service Technician for Glacier Water. His territory now covers most of New Mexico and he gets to travel the state on company time. Betsy is taking a break from her career in social services. She was a VP with United Way of Tampa Bay, but isn’t sure where she’ll work in Albuquerque.



Betsy and Jordan were married for 20 years, then divorced, and are happy to be back together. Along with cats, Chaser and Felix, they recently moved to a house in the South Valley. The June 10 club meeting will be at their home (directions are on the Member's Only Page on the web site).

Jordan bought his '03 Wrangler new in Florida. There's a major makeover in progress: new lift kit and tires (probably 35's) to go with the already-installed Tera low kit in the transfer case. Jordan tries to do the work himself, so he knows what is getting done. The Jeep doesn't have to be a big dog. For them, scenery is #1 and challenge is #2. Jordan adds, "I'll try anything that the Jeep is semi-able to do."

His favorite trail? "All of them!" Jordan just enjoys getting out and "if I make it back in one piece, it's a good trail." He and Betsy enjoyed the 2006 Easter Jeep Safari in Moab where they ran Top of the World, Copper Ridge, the Rose Garden, and others. Jordan and Betsy have never been to Silverton, so they hope the four letter word starting with "w" doesn't interfere with attending the Summer Quarterly there.

NM4W is a great club in Jordan's opinion. He appreciates the member dedication and variety of activities. As Trailmaster of his Florida club, he knows the effort it takes to keep a club successful. Jordan would consider holding a club office in order to help promote four-wheeling. Welcome to New Mexico, Jordan and Betsy, where there's lots of scenic four-wheeling on dusty, but dry, trails.

### **Jeep Jamboree, Palo Duro, May 2006**

by Nancy Crowley

Rod and I loaded the Jeep onto the trailer and headed toward Amarillo for a Jeep Jamboree. We were a little concerned about the weather because it looked like rain for the next couple of days. It ended up that the weather did cause us some problems.

The first morning we headed in a big group to the ranch that hosted the event. The local Jeep club

pays the rancher so they can use the ranch. I realized how lucky we are in NM because we have so much public land to go 4 wheeling. All the land there is private. We had an incredible cowboy breakfast before heading down into the canyon.



The trip into the canyon was a challenge in itself - it was a very steep road. There were about 110 Jeeps there! We were in the Orange group and there were about 18 in the group. I signed up for one of the easiest groups and it was the most difficult 4 wheeling I have ever done. I know it would not be much for some of you, but I was white knuckled for much of the trip. You may have heard my screaming in Albuquerque. ☺ There were some very steep descents and ascents, and lots of obstacles where there were a couple of wheels way off the ground. Thank goodness they had great spotters and they were the nicest folks. I was very happy with how the little red Jeep did, although its driver needs more practice.



We had dinners over an open fire in the canyon both evenings. The food was absolutely fantastic!

The second morning it rained a lot, which delayed our descent into the canyon. The dirt was red clay and it was very slick. I got turned sideways on the way down and had to be pulled back around. It was my fault – I touched the brakes. I then made Rod drive the rest of the way down. It rained hard later that day, but it dried up way before dinner and there was no problem getting out. We had a great time!



### Pictures on the Internet by Laurye Tanner

For those of you new to the club or those of you who are just cruising our web site; we have slide shows of our runs on the Internet. The new web site address for the club pictures:  
[http://www1.snapfish.com/home/t\\_8290670.jsessionid=60AB4534DEFB5030966F5D99AA9DBA2A](http://www1.snapfish.com/home/t_8290670.jsessionid=60AB4534DEFB5030966F5D99AA9DBA2A)

It will change every time I add new sideshows. There are now 3 new slideshows of the Chile Challenge, Gordy's Hill, and Caballo Lake run. If you do not want to personally register with Snapfish, you can use [nm4wphotos@earthlink.net](mailto:nm4wphotos@earthlink.net) as your login, and [jeepers](#) as your password.

For those who are taking pictures on our trips, please e-mail me at [lauryetanner@earthlink.net](mailto:lauryetanner@earthlink.net), or give me a CD of the pictures you have taken. Please let me know the name of the event and who took the pictures. Remember to save your originals.

Glenn and I are trying to get pictures of our members to add to the web site roster on the Member's Only Page. Please e-mail Glenn or me your picture. If you do not have a good picture; I will try to bring a camera at the next meeting and will be glad to take your picture there.

### Marcia's Baby Shower Sent in by Joan Wolf



Marcia Duggar received many oh-so-cute things for the twins at her baby shower. Besides Jeep-brand baby carriers and a baby walker, she received an awesome homemade (by Kristy Coe and Lauri Rector) mobile featuring a green Cherokee, yellow Bronco, mud tire, and Della.



## The "Right Way" to Lift Your Jeep

by Glenn Bontly

It's been said that the current generation of the Jeep Wrangler (1997 – present) is the most capable trail vehicle available "right out of the box". But once you've mastered the easy trails with your stock Jeep, you will likely get an itch to tackle some more challenging stuff. If you want to crawl over bigger rocks, you're gonna need more clearance, which means you'll need taller tires, which means you'll need a lift! I am often asked for advice about the "right" way to lift a Jeep. If you flip through any of the popular 4x4 magazines, you will find a dozen (or more) advertisements for lift kits. Some consist of a simple set of spring spacers, others complex systems with a seemingly overwhelming number of pieces and parts. No wonder it's so confusing!

I don't claim to be an expert on lift kits, and I won't be promoting any particular brand of lift in this discussion. Instead, I will try to point out several things you need to consider when lifting your Jeep, based on what I've learned over the years, including my experience in building my own Jeep. Obviously, I will be talking about a typical (non-Rubicon) TJ Wrangler, which is what I drive.

The biggest problem with lifting a vehicle is that changing one component will usually affect (adversely) one or more other components. And the bigger the lift, the more pronounced these effects. The "right way" to lift your Jeep involves a thorough evaluation of your entire vehicle.

The primary reason for lifting a vehicle is to increase the clearance between the axles and the body, in order to install taller tires. A **body lift** is the easiest and least expensive way to achieve this. But in addition to gaining clearance for larger tires, off-roaders often desire enhanced capability as well. A **suspension lift** will not only provide increased clearance for larger tires, but also greater axle articulation and more ground clearance under the t-case skid plate. In order to keep the center of gravity the lowest, and to mitigate the adverse affects of lifting your vehicle, you want the least amount of lift you can get away with, while still fitting the new tires under fully-articulated axles.

**Body Lifts:** A 1-inch body lift is cheap and easy to install. With taller body lifts (2 – 3 inches), your gear shift levers will be too "short", and you will have to modify your A/C lines if your vehicle is so equipped. Body lifts do nothing to enhance the capability of your vehicle, but may be just what you need, in conjunction with a suspension lift, for that little extra clearance for the next larger size tires.

**Suspension Lifts:** Ranging from 3 inches to 8 inches, suspension lifts consist primarily of taller springs. Depending on the kit, it may also include a variety of other components, such as shocks, track bar relocation brackets, drop pitman arms, sway bar quick disconnects, longer brake lines, adjustable control arms, and various other pieces and parts.

**Shocks:** If you go with more than 2 inches of suspension lift and want to take full advantage of the increased travel it affords, you will need to install longer shocks.

**Slip Yoke Eliminator (a.k.a., Short Shaft Kit):** One of the biggest problems caused by tall suspension lifts (4+ inches) is driveline vibrations on the highway. This is the result of the extreme angle of your stubby little rear drive shaft. To mitigate the effects of this condition, you can install a slip yoke eliminator at the rear output of your transfer case. It will require a longer drive shaft, which will result in a decreased drive shaft angle.

**Drive Shaft:** If you install a slip yoke eliminator, you will automatically have to purchase a new rear drive shaft. Unlike the front shaft, the factory rear shaft does not have a slip joint. And since you just removed the slip yoke in the t-case, you must get a rear shaft with a slip joint. And while you're at it, have a CV joint installed at the front end. This will spread the angles across 3 joints, instead of just two.

**Gears:** Installing taller tires will have the same affect as higher gearing. This results in a slower turning engine and equates to a loss of power on the highway. You may want to consider installing lower gears in your front and rear differentials at this time.

**Adjustable Control Arms:** A suspension lift will change your pinion angles. If you install either

upper or lower adjustable control arms, you will be able to reestablish the proper pinion angle. If you have both upper **and** lower adjustable arms, you will also be able to adjust the fore and aft positioning of the axles as well.

**Short vs. Long Arms:** If you have tall springs (4+ inches), long shock, and lots of axle articulation, the “droop” side of the rear axle will rotate forward somewhat at full extension, effectively causing some (unwanted) rear-steer on your vehicle. Long arms will eliminate this problem.

**Track Bars (front and rear):** A suspension lift will change the angle of your front and rear track bars. As a result, it will laterally shift your entire axles to one side of the vehicle. To fix this, most lift kits come with track bar relocation brackets. An alternative it to purchase a longer or an adjustable track bar.

**Sway Bar Quick Disconnects:** Moving up to the front of the vehicle, in order to take full advantage of your taller springs and longer shocks, you will need to disconnect your front sway bar. For safety, you should reconnect it prior to driving on the highway. The most convenient way to do this is with a set of quick disconnects.

**Brake Lines:** With all of your new found articulation, you will likely have to install longer front brake lines, or at least brake line relocation brackets.

**Steering Linkage:** A stock vehicle has a nearly parallel drag link and front track bar. A suspension lift will result in an increased angle between these two components. And the larger the angle, the more pronounced the “bump steer” effect. Bump steer is the movement of your steering when your springs flex up and down. To solve this problem, you can either install a drop pitman arm or a high-steering conversion. The high-steer kit is gonna be expensive, but the drop pitman arm is a weak link (I’ve personally twisted one into a pretzel shape)!

**Axles:** Depending on how tall of a lift you install, as well as how low of gears you have, and whether or not you have lockers, you may want to replace or strengthen the axle shafts and/or axle housings. The

front Dana 30 will stand up to a lot of abuse, depending on your driving style. The rear Dana 35C, however, is definitely a weak link.

**Speedo Gear:** If you change your tire size and/or your differential gears, your speedometer will no longer be accurate. With taller tires and lower gears, your actual speed will be higher than what your speedo indicates (i.e., can you spell speeding ticket?). To correct this problem, simply replace the speedo gear in your t-case.

As you can see, lifting a vehicle the “right way” is not a simple task. But if you spend the time and money to do it correctly, you will be much more satisfied with the results.

**CHIC CHALLENGE**  
(pronounced Sheek Chall-enge', with a French accent)  
by Lauri Rector



Wow!!! Our club gets amazing turnouts for our day trips. There were 13 vehicles at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting spot: Justin Simenson & Rebecca Tafoya, Jerry & Mary Moran, Mark Wolf, Don Walker (all the way from Farmington) & his niece Annie Medders, Ron Hyman & Deb Marchi, Paul & Mary Thompson, Jimmy & Debbie Farrell, Kathy Wolf & Mike Robertson, Chuck & Ethel May Peeples, Carrie Phillips & 2 sons, Robert & Holly Hohlfelder, and I had a co-pilot with me, Tina Medeiros, who is a co-worker.

We took off for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting spot – a Shell station just east of Airport Rd. There we picked up Betsy Gunderson, who was running late and missed us at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting spot, and 4 vehicles from the Santa Fe area (I did not get their names, well, only Mark Anderson – but we had been e-mailing each other several weeks before the run). Wolfie picked up Barbara & Rodger Hall, who were at the 599 and Airport Rd intersection, and took all of the other people that didn't need gas straight to the air down spot, which worked out well, since they got to sit out in what was becoming a very hot sun for quite a while.



Finally, were on the trail. It promised to be a good day. I found the turn to the trail, following right along on my GPS tracks from the pre-run; all was good. And then, trouble.... The Explorer wasn't coming up a little hill that we had just come up. Paul Thompson then walks up to my Jeep and asks if I'm going a different route than what we did for my pre-run (it served invaluable several times that day to have had Paul join me on the pre-run). Thankfully, Chuck Peeples came to my rescue and pointed out to Mark Wolf and everyone that I had taken a "scenic turn off" from the trail to show everyone a beautiful view of Santa Fe. Mark Wolf stayed with the Explorer and told me to go on. We all finally get back onto the trail and then.... over the CB comes, "hold up for a little while". Besides the Explorer, we have another Jeep down (Barbara & Rodger Hall), no power steering. So after about a ½ to an hour, we decide to call it lunch, since it was noon. By the time we got done eating, Wolfie and the Explorer came up and we all took off (more of a

majority vote rather than me not caring if Mark and them got to eat or not).

We get to the dry river bed and go through the most challenging part of the trail (and the bumpiest) and then....I get on my CB and ask Paul if I missed a turn or something – I think that I would have remembered the last 30 or 40 feet in the pre-run. Yep, if it was really rough driving through it, backing up is even more fun, especially since I still haven't learned how to get on the better side of my reverse gear. Luckily, it was only me that had to back up. I get back on the trail and we all head up to the top of the Mesa. We make one stop during the ascent – good trees for a 10-100. At which point, I'm either being whined at or praised by the women drivers (who all were driving Rubicon's or had lockers front and back and were all much better equipped than I was).



We get headed back up the Mesa again and finally get to the where we would have eaten lunch. I brought no trash bags, so there was no trash pick up. I lead everyone down to the blow hole. Now, if you read my story on La Ventana ride from about a year ago, you'd have known not to follow me on foot, yet a lot of people did. How we did not lose anyone down the side of the mountain is beyond me. And, I learned something about the blow hole. On a very hot day, you can feel cool air coming out of it.

So, we do some more talking. And Wolfie let me know that he was going to go back down the hill and help the Explorer back out – the Explorer was



having electrical problems with the transfer case and thus the 4-wheel drive. What comes up next is a hill that I have never driven down myself. I have become very comfortable with down hill in my Jeep, but for some reason I wasn't on this afternoon. It looked more eroded than what I remember and there was a very low drop-off that wasn't there on the pre-run. I pulled up too close and then chickened out, but I couldn't back up very far. Just as I was going to unbuckle and pull myself up to be able to see beyond my hood, Don Walker came up and asked if I wanted a spot. Just as I suspected, I needed to go over to the right. Just beyond that I needed to go over to my left (Jeff pointed this out to me on the pre-run). And just like that I had conquered that darn hill. My co-pilot closed her eyes and missed it all.



The trail took us through another dry, but not rocky, creek bed before we meet up with FR 24 that takes us over to the La Bajada Hill trail. We did get some rain while on this 11 mile leg (or is it 21 miles?), but not enough to keep the dust down (ohhhh – it so nice being the leader!!!). We were all spread out – a lot. So much so that we lost a member at the left turn onto the La Bajada Hill trail and almost made me seem like a liar when I said we were like the Marines and we leave no man (or woman) behind. Betsy Gunderson got some directions from Chuck and Paul on the CB and turned herself around and found us. Those that got there soon enough walked over and looked out over the valley and the abandoned vehicle at the bottom of the cliff. After Betsy got joined up with us, we headed on down the hill.

Since I was the leader, I got to the air down spot first (go figure!!!). There are some nice trees there, but I didn't think the 20 or so cattle looked like they wanted to share any of that shade with us. So I stopped out in the open area. After several hours (or it just seemed that long since we were having to stand out in the sun), those that wanted air, but didn't have any of their own, finally got their tires filled up by the people that have their own air (and thank you so much for sharing!!!).

Finally, about 5:30 before we all headed to I-25 to go home after a very long, hot, but extremely fun day. Even the women that were whining before were telling me what a great trail this was.

### **Web Sites for Fire Restrictions & Closures**

Sent in by Don Miller

#### New Mexico

[http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/information/firerestrictions/nm/restrictions\\_nm.htm](http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/information/firerestrictions/nm/restrictions_nm.htm)

#### Utah

<http://www.utahfireinfo.gov/restrictions/index.htm>

#### Arizona

[http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/information/firerestrictions/az/restrictions\\_az.htm](http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/information/firerestrictions/az/restrictions_az.htm)

### **15 Fun Things to do at Wal-Mart**

Sent in by Mark Wolf

*(As a follow-up to my "camping" article from last month, I thought I would share these 15 "fun things" to do Wal-Mart, sent in by Wolfie -ed.)*

1. Get a handful of condoms and randomly put them in peoples' carts when they aren't looking.
2. Set all of the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5-minute intervals.
3. Make a trail of tomato juice on the floor leading to the rest rooms.
4. Walk up to an employee and tell her in an official tone, 'Code 3' in Housewares, and watched what happens.

5. Go to the Service Desk and ask to put a bag of M&M's on lay away.

6. Move a 'CAUTION - WET FLOOR SIGN' to a carpeted area.

7. Set up a tent in the camping department and tell other shoppers they can come in if they'll bring pillows from the bedding department.

8. When a clerk asks if they can help you, start crying and ask, "Why can't you people just leave me alone?"

9. Look right into a security camera, and using it as a mirror, start picking your nose.

10. While handling guns in the hunting department, ask the clerk if he knows where the antidepressants are.

11. Dart around the store suspiciously, while humming the "Mission Impossible" theme.

12. In the auto department, practice your "Madonna impersonation" using different size funnels.

13. Hide in a clothing rack and when people walk through, yell "PICK ME!" "PICK ME!"

14. When an announcement comes over the loud speaker, assume the fetal position and scream "NO! NO! It's those voices again!"

and finally,

15. Go into a fitting room, shut the door, wait a while; then yell, very loudly, "There's no toilet paper in here!"



- **1990 Mazda Miata:** 113K miles, good condition. 5-speed manual, 35 mpg. Includes brassiere, tonneau, and premium full-car cover. \$3000. Call Marcia Duggar at 505-286-8136 or Leon at 505-235-8988.

- **Dana 30 Front Axle for TJ:** Complete, 4.56 gears, ARB Air Locker. Opened up and all components checked and OK. Asking \$1,000.00. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.

- **Hi-Lift Jack & Camping Stuff:** 5-gal. Jerry gas can, new, \$25. 5-6 person dome tent, \$25. Coleman 2-burner propane stove, \$15. 2-mantle propane lantern & carry case, \$10. 4-foot Hi-Lift Jack, \$25. Front seat from an '82 CJ-7, \$20. Camping stove, \$15. Lantern with carrying case, \$15. Contact Glenn Capener at 505-344-2656.

- **4.0 liter engine,** out of 1988 Cherokee, high mileage (198k), \$250. AW4 four-speed automatic also high mileage (includes flexplate and converter), \$300. Package deal! Aforementioned engine and transmission together with complete wiring harness and computer, \$500. Swap the whole shebang into the vehicle of your choice! Also lots of other odds and ends from 1988 Cherokee Laredo. Gather an armload and make me a (really cheap) offer. Contact Mark at 505-891-0296.

- **Jeep TJ Stuff:** Set of five BFG Mud Terrain Radials (35 X 12.5 X 15), 2 less than 10 miles, 2 less than 1000 miles, 1 worn, \$500 takes them all! Bestop Trail Cover for 97-04 TJ, Spice color, like new \$60; OEM security trunk \$40. Call Brad Opatz at 505-858-0832.

**For more Classified Ads,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.nm4w.org/wanted-for\\_sale.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/wanted-for_sale.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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of Trail Tales is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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, 21 Rattlesnake Ridge, Tijeras, NM 87059.

## NM4W Officers

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<b>Trip Chairman</b> Jason Lavy 792-8035 <a href="mailto:trip-chairman@nm4w.org">trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <a href="mailto:environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a>	<b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  "Your Name Here" Please Volunteer!



## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Jun 10	Club Meeting at the Sousa House	Call Jordan Sousa	505-873-4009
Jun 16 – 18	Zuni Mountain Trip	Cancelled due to Fire Danger	n/a
Jul 8	Club Meeting at the Tanner's	Call Carlos & Laurye	505-281-0994
Jul 27 – 29	SWFWDA Summer Quarterly	Call Mark Wolf	505-856-8539
Aug 12	Club Meeting at the Peoples'	Call Chuck & Ethyl May	505-866-1185

Trail Tales  
 21 Rattlesnake Ridge  
 Tijeras, NM 87059-7440





# Trail Tales



July 1, 2006

The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From June 10, 2006

by Lauri Rector



Meeting was hosted by Jordan Sousa & Betsy Gunderson at their temporary, but very nice rental home. Mark Werkmeister called the meeting to order at 6:15 sharp.

**Guests:** Mike Robertson & Kathy Wolf - '01 Land Rover Discovery; Paul Caskey - '95 Jeep YJ

**Members Present:** Abbate, Baca, Brady, Coe, Greven, Lavy, Marks, Meier, Peeples, Rector, Rodacy, Ryan, Simenson, Sousa, Thompson, Whiston, Wolf.

**Secretary's Report – Lauri Rector:** It was immediately voted and approved to dismiss the reading of the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** We have \$2,570.67 in our coffers and have taken in \$695 in registration. Was that a new GMC dually that Paul & Mary drove to the meeting? He's not getting all of his money from us is he?

**Vice President's Report – Jeff Rector:** 2 fines for our lovable secretary for u-turns on the Chic Challenge. And one fine for Betsy Gunderson, she got lost from the rest of us on the same trail.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy:** Memorial Day Run – Chuck said that there were 11 vehicles in attendance for the weekend. Not a lot of people in the Jemez due to ambiguous information from the Forest Service on closure and fire danger. Tom Hurt & Paul Thompson lead trails. They did a lot of trail clearing and could not use chain saws.

Chic Challenge – I spoke some on this and did not make any notes. Please refer to the June Trail Tales for the article I wrote. Mark Wolf said that I did a very good job on leading this trail considering how many Jeeps attended and how long the trail was.

No upcoming trails were discussed.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Bob Norton:** Not present. We are still waiting for draft from the Resource Management Plan about Gordy's Hill. Mark Werkmeister is going to the Socorro office on Monday and should get an update. They are 1½ months overdue on the report.

**Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx:** Not present.

**Historian's Report – Laurie Tanner:** Not present.

**Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Not present.

**Old Business:** Mark Wolf talked about Summer Quarterly in Ridgway (north of Ouray, CO). Make your reservations now as there are 2 big events taking place back to back. The pavilion he reserved will be too small. A bigger Pavilion has been secured, but was only available on Friday night, so the dinner is being moved to that night. Cliff Meier needs leaders and tail gunners. He has maps and packages and lists with him tonight. Please sign up before you leave and get your packet. July 15<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> have been set aside for pre-running. Or you can go and pre-run whenever you want. Mike Coe said to make sure trails are open if you go before July 1<sup>st</sup>. Paca Park (Please check with Mike Coe or Mark Wolf on this, I think that I got the name of the park wrong) is where the dinner will be. It's really nice and beautiful. Everything is really nicely done.

The pavilion is made of stone and wood. Paul Thompson said that we have 14 vehicles signed up now (which should be about 30 people). Mike Coe said that he has 90 meals guaranteed. The caterer that Mike Coe has secured for the dinner has a Smoker grill that is about ½ the size of a rail car. Mike said that this guy is really into barbequing, he carries a stop watch with him the whole time. Mike said he is just salivating thinking about it. He said that there will be all kinds of food at the dinner. Mike also said to not go 550. Drop down from Montrose. His breaks were smoking (Good to know that other people besides Jeff gets them smoking in Colorado). Mike has brochures on the park where the dinner will be.

Cliff Meier talked about the trails that he has picked. There will be lots of trails ran each day. All are very easy trails and he has hand outs on all trails. He is in need of 4 more trail leaders and 3 more tail gunners.

I talked about our club's sponsorship by Tom Wood and the items that they have sent us and asked for discussion on how we should use it. It was decided to talk about it at the next meeting.

**New Business:** We need nominations for officers, as we will vote at the next meeting. Mark Werkmeister opened the floor for nominations. Mark Wolf nominated Kristy Coe for President and unfortunately she declined. Mark Werkmeister asked Jeff if he wants to run again for Vice President and he said that he doesn't want to run. Mark Wolf volunteered. Chuck Peeples nominated your lovable Secretary for President and she accepted (does she know what she's getting herself into?). Mark Werkmeister asked for a volunteer for Secretary and there were no takers. Mark asked Paul Thompson if he'd be Treasurer for another term and he accepted. Jason Lavy said that he would rather not be trip chairman again. Frank G Whiston volunteered for this position. Director of Environmental is currently held by Bob Norton and he is not here, he may not want to be. Mark Werkmeister said that he will check with Jerry Marx and Laurye Tanner on their positions as program chairman and historian. Jordan Sousa thanked us for coming out to bum-f\*#\$ing-Egypt (that means out in the middle of nowhere). He

asked if anyone knows about Carson National Forest. What he really wants is for someone to volunteer to lead trails up there. It's someplace he and Betsy would like to go to. Paul Caskey - '95 Jeep YJ, is a new member that did not introduce himself initially. Thanks to Mary Thompson for asking him to stand and introduce himself. He went to the Memorial Weekend outing. Jordan Sousa said that Tony Lauder (a prospective member) hasn't been able to make it to meetings due to conflicts with other personal things, but he hopes to make it to a meeting soon. Mike Roberts and Kathy Wolf were voted in as new members and got a big welcome from everyone.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.



### President's Report By Mark Werkmeister

Summer is flying by! It is almost July already, have you been out and done any four wheeling? It is hot and very dry here, but the (still) green mountains of Colorado are calling. I was up in central Colorado again last weekend and the scenery is spectacular. There is nothing like a historic drought in New Mexico to make the mountains up north look even more lush and inviting than usual. The wildflowers were just starting into their season with the early varieties in bloom. Don't miss the opportunity to join your club and Association for the SWFWDA Summer Quarterly at Ridgway. What a location! The world class scenery of the San Juan Mountains just minutes south, hard core opportunities in Montrose just minutes north (not event-sponsored, but available none the less), and a great setting on the Ridgway Reservoir. When I went through during Memorial Day, the reservoir was nearly full, so the campground is indeed beautiful. Besides, Mike has promised us epic food for the Friday evening meal!

I finally had the opportunity to help present the Nambe platter to Mike Bilbo. Look for the article elsewhere in this issue. After the presentation, I had the opportunity to sit down with Mike and representatives from other user groups, and review



the trail systems again. We will need to continue to monitor the creation of the management plan for the area after the Resource Management Plan Revision gets approved (the BLM is still waiting for its contractor to release the plan for public comment).

Oh, and one last thought....I won't be able to make it to the July meeting, so I have to convey this to you here rather than in person: Please vote for your beautiful, dynamic, and very capable Madame Secretary as your next NM4W President!

Happy 'wheeling!

Mark

**Member Spotlight:  
Frank G. & Beth Whiston**  
by Joan Wolf



Legacy—anything handed down by an ancestor or predecessor.

For the Whiston family, the legacy is four-wheeling. Frank G. (now in his early 30's) attended his first All-4-Fun at age 1½ with his parents, Frank R. and Donna Whiston. In July, Frank G. will attend his 30<sup>th</sup> All-4-Fun with wife Beth and their 1½ year old daughter Kimberly. Frank G. remembers when his Dad's four-wheeling group, Albuquerque Off-Road Club, went out for hide 'n seek night runs in the Sandia Foothills. And little Kimberly, who was introduced to four-wheeling at age two months, loves to go out in the Jeep. When

she walks by the Jeep in the garage, she pats it and wants a "ride". Yes, four-wheeling is in the Whiston bloodline.

Both Franks learned about NM4W 10 years ago at an NM4W yard/parts sale at our old house near Montgomery & Wyoming. Due to other priorities (school, career, marriage), it was three years ago that Frank and Beth found time to join the NM4W. The younger Whistons' involvement has increased each year. They've led several runs and overnights, and Frank G. recently volunteered for the Trip Chairman position. He hopes to bring enthusiasm and fresh ideas, and grow the number and variety of club activities. Frank recognizes that many long-serving individuals need a break, so he's stepping up to the plate. (Thanks, Frank!)

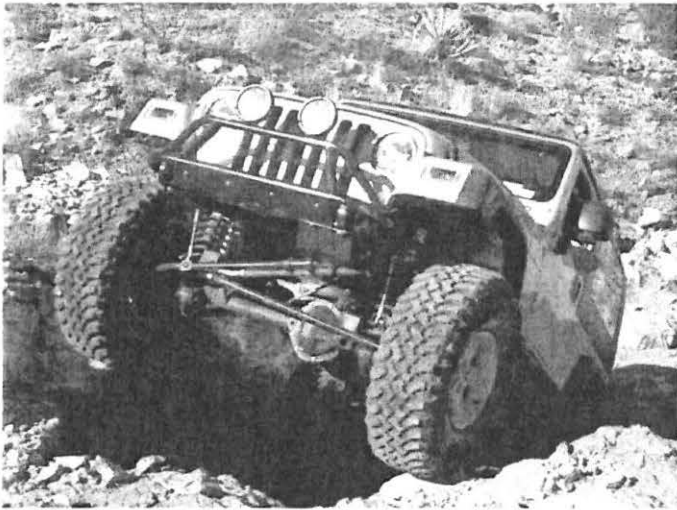
Although both Frank and Beth spent their formative years in Albuquerque (Frank was born here and Beth moved from Phoenix at age eight), they met through email. Their paths had probably crossed since they attended TVI and UNM, and even worked at the same Northeast Heights shopping center at the same time. Beth said they corresponded by email for several months before getting up the nerve to meet in person.

They welcomed Kimberly into the world on December 19, 2004. A red-headed, energetic toddler, Kimberly loves to share (toys, food, even her blankie). She's learned to say Bronco, but hasn't quite mastered the word Jeep; Dad's working on that.

Frank enjoys his work as a Test Engineer at Sandia National Labs. He started as a Mechanical Designer and has been at the labs for five years. Prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom, Beth was a first grade teacher at Hubert Humphrey Elementary. Now she and Kimberly stay busy with a play group and a Moms Club. In fact, Beth was recently named to the Board of Directors of the International Moms Club Albuquerque Chapter. The group holds social events, provides community service, and offers support for stay-at-home moms.

Frank believes their 2004 Jeep Unlimited was the first one sold in Albuquerque. Beth remembers coming home from work and seeing a silver Jeep in

the driveway with Frank underneath. He innocently explained that he'd just taken it out for a test drive. Beth agreed to drive it back to the dealer—but liked it so much that the dealer never got it back!



When it came time for Jeep modifications, Frank took a different route that he'd taken with his Ranger. With the truck, he installed gears and lockers, but didn't protect the body. With the Jeep, bumpers and rocker guards went on first. Next came custom suspension consisting of Curry J arms and triangulated rear suspension, high pinion Dana 44 front, 4.88 gears front and rear, Detroit Electric lockers, and 35" tires. The tires came courtesy of the 2005 Chile Challenge raffle, "Perfect timing," adds Frank. Is the Jeep done? Frank said never, and Beth said that wasn't the answer she wanted to hear.

Beth and Frank both love exploring the outdoors and camping. Growing up, Beth's family loaded up the Suburban and went tent camping. It was fun—but as an adult she's perfectly content to "rough it" in their motorhome with the Unlimited in tow. The family cats, Bali and Socks, get to tag along on the RV trips. Beth also enjoys meeting the NM4W families and she's tickled that Kimberly is getting so many potential playmates. At home, Beth enjoys scrapbooking and walking in the neighborhood with Kimberly (she loves her wagon rides).

Favorite trails? Beth had fun on Spring Creek (near Georgetown, CO) because of the scenery and how well the Ranger handled the big rocks. Frank likes Grizzly Lake (near Salida, CO) because it was the

first trail he ran after putting front lockers on the Ranger. Some other favorite All-4-Fun locales have been Fairplay and Leadville (Frank G. remembers pulling Dad out of a mud bog).

Future trips? Frank hopes to reschedule an "exploratory" run in the Zuni Mountains when the forest reopens (hopefully by Fall). He'd also like to do Canyonlands, since Beth hasn't seen that part of Utah. As Trip Chairman, Frank says he'll encourage exploratory trips, especially for novice trail leaders. He wants trail leaders to have fun—not be stressed. The Whistons want to share in the fun and future of four-wheeling. It's a legacy thing!

**Nambe Platter Presented to Mike Bilbo**  
Sent in by Mark Werkmeister



Joanne Spivack (NMOHVA President) and Mark Werkmeister (NMOHVA Secretary and President of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers) recently presented an award to BLM Socorro Office Outdoor Recreation Planner, Mike Bilbo. Mike was presented the engraved Nambe platter from NMOHVA and the New Mexico 4-Wheelers at a recent BLM staff meeting. The award was given in appreciation of Mike's long standing commitment to OHV recreation and his support in helping establish the Gordy's Hill OHV Area near Socorro. In addition to his tireless work in the Gordy's Hill

effort, Mike played a key role in the establishment of the Haystack Mountain and Mescalero Sands North Dunes OHV Areas in previous BLM positions within the state. Thanks Mike!

## Thoughts on 4x4 Navigation

by Frank G. Whiston

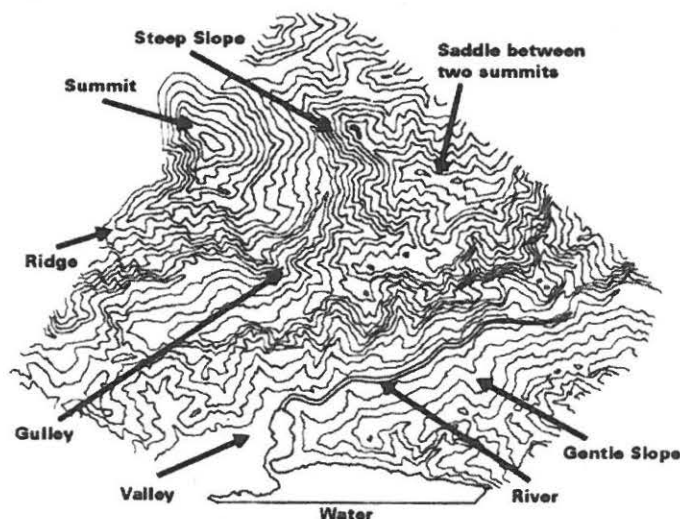
When attending a club trail ride, it is a very comfortable experience. We have a trail leader that has taken all of the responsibility for knowing where we are going and how to get us back. Ahh, we can all just follow along and enjoy the scenery and/or the challenge of obstacles along the trail. Have you ever thought that you would like to revisit the area sometime on your own? Lets think about how we could figure out how to retrace these steps as a leader a month or two later.

Maybe it would be a good idea to record the path taken with a GPS receiver. Global Positioning System, or GPS, devices are wonderful instruments. They allow you to pinpoint your location to within a few yards, no matter where you are on planet Earth! How about looking at the scenery for landmarks that you can remember? Another thing to think about is looking at the trail itself. How well traveled is it? How does the apparent traffic level of the trail that you are on compare to other trails that take off from it? Oh, I know, let's mark a waypoint at each intersection where we would have to make a decision the next time we come. On top of that, I'll note the name of the waypoint and record something like "left turn at the Y with the rock that looks like a dog on the right." I think that I will even take a picture of the intersection with my digital camera. That way, I could use it and my GPS data to create myself a trail guide when I lead a trip the next time.

GPS receivers are great fun, they are very useful tools, and they are easily obtained at reasonable cost. But be careful! Don't rely on a GPS until you first prepare yourself with the knowledge and skills required to find your way with simple tools like a map and compass. Map reading and navigational skills are developed by practice. I would suggest buying maps of any area that you might be interested in returning to on your own or as a leader.

(On your own meaning in a small group, *never* wheel alone.) It is easiest to read a map if the map is oriented to the surrounding landscape. If you see a valley on your left, then the valley shows on the left on the map. You can do this by eye or with a compass. Lay the map on the ground or hold it horizontally. Rotate the map until recognized features on the ground roughly align with those on the map. With the map oriented, look around for prominent features such as mountains, valleys, lakes, rivers, etc. Make a mental note of the geographical features you will be traveling along and seeing during the day. If you keep the terrain in your mind, you will usually have a general idea of where you are just by looking around.

Topographic maps can be particularly useful to help orient using the surrounding landscape. Topo maps utilize contour lines to depict the 3-dimensional character of the terrain on a 2-dimensional map. Contour lines drawn on the map represent equal points of height above sea level. On multi-colored maps, contour lines are generally represented in brown. The map legend will indicate the contour interval—the distance in feet (meters, etc.) between each contour line. There will be heavier contour lines every 4th or 5th contour line that are labeled with the height above sea level.



### Drawn Contour Lines

- Steep slopes - contours are closely spaced.
- Gentle slopes - contours are less closely spaced.



- Valleys - contours form a V-shape pointing up the hill - these V's are always an indication of a drainage path which could also be a stream or river.
- Ridges - contours form a V-shape pointing down the hill.
- Summits - contours forming circles.
- Depressions - are indicated by circular contour with lines radiating to the center.

A topographic map, by itself, isn't much good if you can't point to where you are on it. Similarly, a GPS unit isn't worth much unless you can read the coordinates of your location and then find that place on the map. That's happiness. Here's me . . . there's the river . . . there are these two hills . . . there's where I want to go. Most maps display latitude and longitude at the edges which can be used with GPS data in order to determine your location on it. Get used to working from map to GPS and GPS to map—with a little compass work thrown in for good (safety) measure and you're a 4x4 Navigator.

### Summer Quarterly in Ridgway, CO

An Update by Mark Wolf

As most of you folks know, we are hosting the SWFWDA Summer Quarterly in Ridgway, CO July 27-29, 2006. Cliff Meier is working very hard to make sure there are plenty of trails available for all who journey to the event. If you can help out, PLEASE contact Cliff at 281-3704 and sign up as a trail leader or tail gunner. All of these trails can be done in a stock 4-wheel drive vehicle. In fact, I believe all that is left is easy and moderate trails. The scenery there is spectacular! Cliff has excellent maps and guide information available for every leader, so don't be afraid if you've never been there. All that is asked of you is to make sure you pre-run so you know what turns to make when you lead someone else during the event.

Mike Coe has found a most excellent cook to cater our meal on Friday night, July 28<sup>th</sup>. We originally reserved Saturday night for this dinner, but after Mike visited the park he found that the picnic area we had reserved was way too small for all of us. There's a larger, beautiful area in the park, but it was only available Friday night, so we went for

that. Mike tells me it is all stone and wood, a very nice setting for dinner. This park is on the Uncompahgre River, so bring your bug repellent and enjoy a beautiful evening.

All of the volunteers that are helping put this on are much appreciated. Marcia is diligently working with Paul Thompson with registration. Marcia processes the registrations and Paul deposits the checks. ***Please make sure to send in your registration if you are going to the event.*** The costs are associated with rental of the pavilion for the dinner and the costs of the meals. We will also be hosting the SWFWDA meeting, which is an election meeting. There are several positions open if anyone is interested. Just contact me.

I didn't mention all of the volunteers, but wanted to thank everyone who is signed up to lead/tail gun a trail and those who are working other angles. Ed Kausche had the hardest job with finding a place to hold the event. It took several phone calls and lots of his time. I'm positive the event will be a good one. The New Mexico 4-Wheelers are well organized and it shows when an event like this goes well. Let's keep up the good work! A big round of thanks to everyone!

Oh! If you haven't yet reserved your camping space at the Ridgway State Park, I would suggest you do it soon! That place fills up fast!

### Gas Saving Tips

**Driving style has a big impact on fuel economy. Backing off can save big.**

By Peter Valdes-Dapena, CNNMoney.com staff  
May 2, 2006: 3:20 PM EDT

NEW YORK (CNNMoney.com) - You can get 35 percent better fuel mileage out of your current vehicle by using a device most drivers already have. That would be your right foot.

Most drivers agonizing over the cost of gasoline fail to realize the enormous impact their driving style has on fuel consumption.

During the last run-up in fuel prices, we wrote about Edmunds.com's tests of common fuel-saving driving tips. Some common tips, it turned out, had little or no effect on fuel economy. (Edmunds.com provides data and content for CNN.com's automotive Websites.)

For example, using the air conditioner at highway speeds had no appreciable effect on fuel economy compared to rolling down the windows.

Keeping your tires properly inflated, while important for safety, has only a small effect on fuel mileage, according to Edmunds.com's tests.

Using cruise control on the highway, though, really does have a noticeable effect on fuel economy. In Edmunds.com's test using a Land Rover LR3 and a Ford Mustang, the Land Rover got almost 14 percent better mileage using cruise control set at 70 miles per hour rather than cruising at driver-controlled speeds between 65 and 75 miles per hour. The Mustang got 4.5 percent better mileage.

Using cruise control cuts down on unnecessary speed changes which can eat up gas, and it prevents "speed creep", the tendency for a driver's average speed to gradually increase with time spent on the road. (In that way, it can save you from an expensive speeding ticket, as well.)

If you want a big gain in fuel mileage, though, you need to seriously lay off the pedals when driving around town. Accelerating more slowly away from green lights and stopping more gradually for red lights cut fuel consumption in Edmunds.com's tests by 35.4 percent for the Land Rover and 27.1 percent for the Mustang.

Slamming down the gas pedal pushes more fuel into the engine while it also keeps the engine running faster.

You can also save a lot of gas by just lifting your foot off the accelerator as soon as possible when approaching a yellow or red light or a stop sign. For one thing, letting up on the gas sooner gives your car more coasting time.

By the way, when we say "accelerating hard" and "stopping abruptly", we aren't necessarily talking about juvenile tire-squealing antics. If you start keeping a conscious eye on how you drive, you may realize that you've been hot-rodding around for years without realizing it.

In Edmunds.com's tests, they slowed acceleration times down to a 20-second run from zero to sixty miles per hour. Compared to the kind of zero-to-sixty times we hear car makers bragging about these days, 20 seconds may sound impossibly slow. In fact, it is slow. But, while it won't get your pulse pounding, it will get you safely onto the highway.

Since most drivers don't have a stopwatch handy to time their acceleration, Cole Quinzel, a spokesman for Chrysler Corp. engineers, advises not pressing the gas pedal down by more than an inch unless you really have to. Using that approach, the difference in fuel economy will be appreciable.

Let's say that your car currently gets 22 miles per gallon overall. If this laid-back driving style gets you just 30 percent more in fuel mileage, which Edmunds.com's tests indicate it could, you'd see that increase to about 30 miles per gallon.

It's not easy, though. For most people, driving this way will feel, to say the least, awkward. When I tried Quinzel's high-mileage driving advice, it was difficult to maintain this disciplined approach to acceleration and deceleration without consistent effort. The minute I let my concentration slip -- Zoom! -- off I'd go again in a gas-wasting rush, just like I usually do.

And, to be perfectly honest, it was a little embarrassing to drive that way. Every molecule of testosterone in my body was begging to be excused for the day.

But, in a couple of short drives, the car was using significantly less gas per mile, even with my occasional slip-up. Maybe if I keep it up, I can soothe my dented ego with a little cash in my wallet.

## **Ford Engineer Says Tonneau Covers Provide 5-10% Fuel Savings**

### **Tailgate Talk By Bruce Smith**

Some questions never seem to be answered satisfactorily. For years humanity has grappled with burning issues such as "which came first, the chicken or the egg?" and "if a tree falls over in the forest and hits an import and no one is there to hear it, does it make any noise?"

Another Favorite for truck customers is whether or not the removal of the truck's tailgate in anyway impacts fuel economy.

Judging by the numbers of tail-less trucks driving down the highway, one would assume that their owners must have figured out driving with the tailgate down gives better fuel milage. And that kind of makes sense; the wind rushes over the cab and hits the tailgate, so it ahs to slow the truck down and reduce the fuel economy, right?

But as many customers already know, modifications may be visually appealing but may not always be cost effective. At least that's what the automotive designers find when they start placing pickup trucks in wind tunnels.

Bursting Their Bubble -- According to design experts, the truck tailgate is designed to create a cushion of air in the bed that aerodynamic engineers called a "seperated bubble" (the real nerdy ones refer to it as "Locked Vortex Flow.") Jargon aside, this invisible bubble of air actually helps deflect the faster moving wind coming over the cab so it passes over the truck's raised tailgate, keeping drag behind the truck minimized.

"Putting the tailgate in the down position tends to increase turbulence and drag of the open box," explained Jack Williams, of Ford Aero Systems Engineering. "We've seen drag increase as much as .5 to 1 percent. Flow-through, web-like fabric replacement tailgates tend to increase drag even more; we've seen increases as much as 4 to 5

percent." In a nutshell, all of that extra drag translates into worse fuel economy for the vehicle. Dr. Edward Fitzgerald, an aerodynamics expert and a jet engine designer with Boeing, added that the effect is actually magnified with speed increases, so that 1 percent increase in drag with the tailgate down as city speeds has much more adverse effects on fuel economy at 70-75 mph on the open road.

Contrary to another popular myth, pickup size doesn't matter. Toyota engineers report that although the haven't done any EPA testing, they speculate dropping the tailgate can actually decrease fuel economy depending on the cab and bed configuration of the pickup.

As If That Weren't Enough -- Another concern with having the tailgate down or removed completely is the damage done to the tailgates exposed hinges and inner workings.

Driving with the tailgate open has been likened by some to slamming it closed repeatedly for whatever amount of time your customers are driving down the road. The bumpier the road, the worse the abuse.

According to many of those same experts, the best way to improve a pickup's fuel economy is to leave the tailgate up and cover the bed with a quality after market tonneau cover.

"Tonneau covers on pickup boxes reduce aerodynamic drag" said Ford's Jack Williams. "We've seen reductions of about 8 to 10 percent on the F150, which means the average fuel economy improvements for the EPA city/highway cycle(test) is about 2 percent.

"The average steady-state (cruise control) fuel economy improvement at highway speeds is close to 5 percent."

Adding a tonneau could mean an improvement in fuel mileage that is the equivalent of a free gallon of gas for every 20 gallons used.





**For Classified Ads,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.nm4w.org/wanted-for\\_sale.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/wanted-for_sale.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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of Trail Tales is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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, 11404 Ocoola Rd. SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 <a href="mailto:president@nm4w.org">president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Jeff Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:vice-president@nm4w.org">vice-president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:secretary@nm4w.org">secretary@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Paul Thompson 293-8390 <a href="mailto:treasurer@nm4w.org">treasurer@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Jerry Marx 922-9370 <a href="mailto:program-chairman@nm4w.org">program-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Laurye Tanner 281-0994 <a href="mailto:historian@nm4w.org">historian@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Trip Chairman</b> Jason Lavy 792-8035 <a href="mailto:trip-chairman@nm4w.org">trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <a href="mailto:environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a>	<b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  "Your Name Here" Please Volunteer!

## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Jul 8	Club Meeting at the Tanner's	Call Carlos & Laurye	505-281-0994
Jul 27 - 29	SWFWDA Summer Quarterly	Call Mark Wolf	505-856-8539
Aug 12	Club Meeting at the Peeples'	Call Chuck & Ethyl May	505-866-1185
Sep 9	Club Meeting at the Lavy's	Call Jason & Sara	505- 792-8035

Trail Tales  
 11404 Oceola Rd. SE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87123





# Trail Tales



August 1, 2006

The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From July 8, 2006  
by Lauri Rector



Meeting was held at the well laid out home of Carlos & Laurie Tanner. There were over 50 people inside for the meeting while it rained cats and dogs outside. Mark Werkmeister called the meeting to order at 6:27 pm sharp.

**Guests:** Dan Pritchard - '91 Cherokee; Harry Wagner - '98 Toyota 4-runner & '87 Toyota Pickup; Kenneth Gaw - '99 TJ; Rodger & Barbara Hall - '81 Scrambler, '81 CJ, & '87 YJ; Tony Lauderbaugh - '97 TJ.

**Members Present:** Abbate, Bontly, Brady, Coe, Finch, Greven, Kennicott, Lavy, Marks, Marx, Meier, Miller (Don), Peeples, Rector, Roberts/Wolf, Rodacy, Simenson, Tanner, Thompson, Werkmeister, Whiston (older), Whiston (younger), and Wolf.

**Secretary's Report – Lauri Rector:** Mark asked for my report and then immediately asked for someone to entertain the motion to pass on the reading of last months meeting minutes, which there was no hesitation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the motion and affirmative vote.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** \$3,296.83 balance. Food for the summer quarterly is going to be \$1,400.

**Vice President's Report – Jeff Rector:** He's got nothing. No fines, no nothing.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy:** Quarterly is coming up. It will be discussed further in old business. Tom Hurt will be leading the

annual Red River trail ride starting on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Frank Whiston Jr. will be leading a run in the Zuni Mountain on Labor Day weekend. He can move the dates around some. He also wants to go to Canyon Lands – Needles District on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. Information on this run will be posted on the member's only page. Fall quarterly is scheduled for the last of September.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Bob Norton:** Bob was not present. Mark Werkmeister reported on the status of the Resource Management Plan for Gordy's Hill. There is still a delay as they are waiting on the report from the contractors. He also discussed the Trackways Monument. This is to protect fossils and tracks found down by Las Cruces. It encompasses enough land that it would close the Chile Canyons area, which is where most of the trails for the Chile Challenge are located. We need to write our congressmen and question the amount of protection it would provide. There would be lots of restrictions in the area, 600 acres are being proposed for closing. The fossil area only involves about 50 acres. They have known about the fossils for over 20 years and just now feel a need to close and restrict the area and lots of surrounding land.

**Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx:** After a discussion between the President and the Secretary and almost everyone at the meeting, it was agreed that Mark did in fact skip over this part (and Mark's lame excuse was that I was pulling his puppet strings and I didn't pull these). Jerry Marx was kind enough to explain the 50/50 raffle for the guests. He is going to raffle off (or just hand out to anyone that wants one) some \$40 coupons for Tom Wood Driveshaft. And then later on in the meeting, we went back to Jerry again so that he could announce that we still have t-shirts and hats for sale (he is quite the peddler!).



**Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner:** We are close to loosing our Snapfish account because no one is buying any of the pictures. She would like our input on whether or not we still want an internet account? Jerry Marx wanted to know if there was another way to post the pictures. Frank Whiston mentioned fourbyfour.com – it's free. Mike Coe suggested that the club purchase a picture for Laurye – preferably a picture of him (umm, he must know that she likes to throw darts and needs a target).

**Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** We still have a web-site and newsletter. Good Job Glenn!!!!

**Old Business:** Summer Quarterly – Mark Wolf said that most of the stuff is set up and all ready to go. Registrations are slow at coming in. Cliff and Jeannie Meier will take over the registrations for Marcia Duggar (she gave birth to twin girls a day or 2 before the meeting – Mom, girls and Dad are reported to be doing fine). The winch raffle will not happen because the registrations just have not been strong enough to warrant it. Cliff Meier still needs trail leaders and tail gunners on Imogene, Black Bear, Kendall Mountain, Stony Pass, Alice Pass, Yankee Boy, and what he calls the Gulches trails (and I may have missed one or 2). The sign up sheets for the trail rides at the Summer Quarterly will be posted each morning for the participates to choose their trail (unlike the Chile Challenge where you choose them on your registration form and just hope you're getting it in before they fill up). Mike Coe needs a head count for the caterer. Mark Wolf said that we should have that about 2 weeks before the dinner. Mike Coe said that he had promised to have it to them yesterday, but he didn't call them yesterday either. It was agreed that they will discuss this after the meeting (please rest assured that no words were exchanged and no punches thrown – their discussion was very civil and calm, just the way we like it). Cliff Meier has the spreadsheet on the trails, days, and starting times with him if anyone needs to look at it.

It was also reported that Jim Huff will help with the trail ride in Copper Canyon in Mexico. It's the

Grand Canyon of Mexico, to be held between Christmas and New Years.

**New Business:** Laurye Tanner discussed the food donations for Marcia Duggar (the girls will not yet be partaking, but she will share with Leon). Food donations were only needed because Leon doesn't know how to boil water. You can bring the food to Laurye or you can take to Leon at work during the week (RSC at Juan Tabo).

Jeff Rector, who had been standing this whole time and was chastised by our President for doing so, reminded the president that it is during the New Business portion of the meeting that guests, who are present and eligible, are voted in. We had 3 at this meeting; Rodger & Barbara Hall, Dan Pritchard, and Tony Louderbaugh & Greta Berry.

Mark reviewed the positions that were to be voted in and also got volunteers for the positions that had no nominations yet. It was agreed that since there was only 1 nomination for each office, no ballots were needed and we could just do a group vote.

It was agreed that the delegate for the SWFWDA could continue to be handled the way it was currently – who ever can attend the quarterly will be our club delegate and will cast their vote for the benefit of the club.

I was also told that the Webmaster and Editor are appointed positions and Glenn is very safe in not being voted out of those positions.

All of the following were voted in unanimously:

President: Lauri Rector  
Vice President: Mark Wolf  
Secretary: Beth Whiston  
Treasurer: Paul Thompson  
Trip Chairman: Frank G. Whiston  
Program Chairman: Jerry Marx  
Historian: Laurye Tanner  
Director of Environmental: Mark Werkmeister

It was decided that we would hold off on the election of the New Mexico 4 Wheeler of the Year until next month. This is again because of our slacker Secretary who had not put it in the meeting

agenda for the President (puppet strings? What puppet strings?)

I discussed the \$50 gift certificate from Desert Rat for the voting member that had earned the most points during this club fiscal year. If you're going out on enough trail rides to win the certificate, you need it!!! The certificate will be presented to the winner at next month's meeting. So far the leaders are Bontly, Rectors, and the Thompsons, in no particular order.

Meeting adjourned at (Ok, my notes are blank on this one – it was maybe about 7:12pm)

**Winner of the 50/50 drawing:** Phil Kenicott had the winning ticket on the \$48 pot on the 50/50 drawing & Mike Coe, Mark Werkmeister, & Eric Finch won Tom Wood ball caps.



### President's Report By Lauri Rector

First, I'd like to say that it is an honor and pleasure to serve as President of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers for the next year. And, yes, I'm quite intimidated to have to follow Mark Werkmeister and other presidents before him. I will endeavor to carry out the duties diligently and lead the club in supporting the 4-wheeling community and promoting the sport of off-roading (and whatever else it may say in the By-laws and/or SOPs, which I honestly have not read what it says about what the presidents duties are). Of course, I think I can trust that the club members will be sure and speak up when I'm doing something wrong in meeting – such as what has to be voted on, when a discussion needs to take place, and things like that, but that's OK – I'll take the help.

I have been thinking and realizing that it will be Beth and I that sit in front of everyone during the meeting. This also made me realize that we do have many women that participate in this sport, lead trails, drive their own 4X4 or just enjoy riding along with their partner, and the campouts and pot-lucks. I'm thinking that I need to add a few items to each

meeting that would be something that women could benefit from. Can we bring it up for a vote? I want to add Manicures, Pedicures, Hair Styling, and Fashion. Please let me have your thoughts on this at the August meeting (NOT!!!!!!!).

### Four Wheeler of the Year by Mark & Joan Wolf

This is a reminder that Four Wheeler of the Year will be voted on at the August 12 meeting. This long-standing NM4W tradition recognizes the "Members Choice" of the fellow member who has done the most for four-wheeling and the club in the previous year. We nominate Paul Thompson for these reasons:

Paul has tirelessly served as NM4W Treasurer for several years. He keeps track of dues and the mailbox, and pays the club's bills (and we all know how tedious that can be!). Paul led runs in Silverton in Sept 2005 and at the Summer 2006 Quarterly. He attends almost every meeting and club event, and always shares his enthusiasm and knowledge of four wheeling with new members. Paul is an all-around steady, dependable member who contributes much time and energy to four wheeling. Even though he keeps a low profile, he's an exemplary member of NM4W.

### Newest NM4W Members by Leon & Marcia Duggar



Anna Catherine (above) and Rebecca Mae (below) Duggar were born July 6. Anna was 3 lbs. 15 oz, and Rebecca was 2 lbs. 15 oz. They are now in Presbyterian NIC, doing very well, and we are spending as much time there as possible. Thanks very much for the food to keep us going through this time, especially since it looks like Anna will be coming home sooner than Rebecca. Also thanks to the folks who took over the registration stuff for the summer quarterly meeting. Have a great time in Colorado for us! We'll be happily changing diapers and holding babies here in ABQ!



**From the Office of the  
Director of Environmental Affairs**  
by Mark Werkmeister

Hello NM4Wer's:

This is what we have been waiting for.....the Santa Fe National Forest has started its public input process for the Travel Management Plan. This is our opportunity to show them just how much we care about our 4WD trails in the Santa Fe National Forest. A show of force by a large number of interested users will demonstrate that we take this very seriously and will make it easier for us to influence the decision making process.

Pick a meeting (or meetings!) and mark your calendar NOW! I would highly suggest the Santa Fe, Cuba, and Espanola meetings.

The first step will be to convince them to compile and provide us with a "starting point" map so we know which routes are already on their maps and

which ones we will need to submit for consideration.

So come on out and make sure they know that we are VERY INTERESTED, VERY MOTIVATED, and VERY INSISTENT on a great 4WD trail system on OUR Santa Fe National Forest.

- August 9: Pecos, City Hall, 6:00-8:30
- August 10: Espanola 6:00-8:30, Mision Convento (not misspelled), west end of town near Lotta Burger, looks like a church
- August 15: Jemez, Wallatowa, 6:00-8:30
- August 16: Hondo/Apache, Eldorado Community Center, 6:00-8:30
- August 22: Las Vegas, Kennedy Lounge, 6:00-8:30
- August 23: Mora, Mora High School, 6:00-8:30
- August 24: Cuba 6:30-9:00, Cuba Community Center, bet we can find it
- August 29: Coyote 6:30-9:00, Coyote Elementary School, also bet we can find it
- August 30: Santa Fe 6:00-8:30, Chavez Community Center, 3221 Rodeo Road

=====

On another note, we are faced with another extreme challenge to the trails in the Robledo Mountains. The New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance is working closely with the Las Cruces Four Wheel Drive Club and the Blue Ribbon Coalition to address it. Here is a brief excerpt from the NMOHVA website:

**Quick Summary: Senator Bingaman (D-NM) has introduced legislation to create a new National Monument in the Robledo Mountains near Las Cruces, NM to protect fossilized tracks left by prehistoric creatures. This Monument is**



**a threat to all existing recreational uses of the area, including motorized recreation. The bill specifies a monument of more than five thousand acres and almost completely contains the Chile Canyons 4WD trail system. It also requires that adjacent lands to be managed to protect the resources in the proposed Monument. The sad thing is that there are hardly any fossils to protect. A massive land closure disguised as a new National Monument? You be the judge!**

Did that get your attention? If so, there is a wealth of information on this issue at <http://nmohva.org/job.html>. If you are only mildly interested (but want to write a letter) or VERY interested and want to dig through all of the material yourself, the website has just the link for you. Check it out, read the information, and act according to your own conscience.

Mark

### **A Day in the Jemez Mountains**

July 16, 2006

by Mark Wolf

Ten energetic four wheelers showed up at the Conoco on a sunny Sunday to join me for a leisurely and scenic drive to the southern end of the Jemez Mountains. Joining me were Pat & Sue Brady in their 93 YJ, Jeff and Lauri Rector in their respective Jeeps (95 YJ & 84 CJ thing), Carlos Tanner in his 99 TJ with Joseph and Jason, Brad Opatz his TJ, Kristy & Mike Coe in her 98 TJ, Jerry Moran in his 05 LJ Rubicon, and my ole pal Tom Hurt in his trusty 76 CJ5. We also were treated to some guests - Mike Ferguson & Ryan Shaffer in Mike's 98 TJ with two European guests on board, and Tim Barnaby in his brand new Toyota FJ. Oh! Don't forget me in my Jeepster. Eleven vehicles in all were ready for a fun day of driving through the cool woods. We headed out at about 9:05 AM. I wasn't sure where I wanted to go today, but after a conversation with Tom and Pat I decided on the Ridge Road to start with and then move on to "Tom's Trail" over to Peggy Mesa. Once over Peggy Mesa we dropped down to FS 534 and then over to San Miguel Mountain and back down to FS

534. I hadn't been over these routes all summer mostly due to the drought and the closed forest. I told everyone that I thought I had water in my gasoline and to bear with me on the road. Pat almost pushed me to the Jemez!

Once we got to the turnoff to the Ridge Road, we all aired our tires down for the fun to start. The Ridge road has gotten a little more challenging over the years and that is the fun part about this road. I don't believe that anyone had any trouble, but Tim did say he wasn't used to all of the banging and crunching under his vehicle. Something about "computers thinking" or something like that. Oh, those new sophisticated traction enhancing computers! But, I do believe Tim even though he is a complete novice at the sport. He was a gearhead before he came to four wheeling! Tom did say his Jeep was getting hot really easy these days and I think that may be due to computers also. Danged computers! For me, well, it was a little simpler.

Half way across the mesa, we stopped for lunch and talked awhile. The camaraderie of four wheelers is always relaxing to me. We made it over the Mesa and I had to stop the vehicle as it was relay running badly. I told Pat I thought my points were acting up. He checked them before I could get out of the vehicle and told me they weren't even opening! Well no wonder it wouldn't run right! After a brief repair (set the points to open!) we were back on our way and boy, did that Jeepster act differently! Do you all remember what points are? My vehicle is antique and doesn't have computers and such! Jeff was mumbling something about him still being Sheriff until next month. I can hear it now! Guess I'll just bring some spare change to donate! Ha!

After the Jeepster decided it would actually run, we went over to the beginning of San Miguel Mountain. This is a nice, easy trail and everyone enjoyed it. We stopped at the top and took a look around. It is a great view for everyone up there. After a brief look around, we all loaded ourselves back up and headed down to FS 534. Once we got to FS 534, we turned right and went back to Porter Landing and then to the Gilman Tunnels where we stopped to air up our tires and say good bye. I left as Carlos was airing up his last two tires. Tom said

he would help him out and make sure he got going. Thanks, Tom.

It was a great run and one I was glad I made as I wanted to find out if the Jeepster was in shape to go to Colorado and run the Silverton trails. I went home promptly and tuned her up completely. The ole Jeepster usually never lets me down but, this time it was me, not the Jeepster that failed. You have to tune those older vehicles up more than the usual 50K miles the newer vehicles run these days. It isn't hard, just time consuming. I hope that Sheriff and his so called "deputies" go easy on me. See you next time, and thanks to all who participated. I hope some of the followers today will remember this run as it was fun and a good one when nothing else is going on. I also think the International guests were more than happy after this run as they don't get to do this kind of stuff in England. I'm glad we could show them a good time and a beautiful place so close to the urban area. For some reason there is never enough time to go there. Gotta work on that!

*(Wolfie, do "points" have anything to do with 8-tracks? -ed.)*

## On Breaking Down

by Glenn Bontly

No one likes to break down, especially while on a vacation. At the Summer Quarterly in Colorado last week, several of us had our fair share of problems, but we managed to help each other out and make it through the event without anyone's fun being spoiled.

Upon arriving in Silverton on Sunday evening, I learned that Paul & Mary were having trouble with the refrigerator in their new Lance camper. It was working okay on A/C power, but wasn't very reliable on propane. But Chuck came to their rescue with his portable generator. It was just enough to get them through Wednesday, when we all moved up to Ridgway State Park and onto electric hookups. I understand that Phil & Carol had refrigerator problems as well, but I don't have the details.

I also had problems with my camper; for me it was the water pump going bad. Similarly, I limped through the first few days until I was able to "hook-up" in Ridgway.

While pre-running one of the trails, Chuck had a major breakdown. The front track bar bracket literally tore off of the frame of his TJ! The bracket was fully in tact, but the frame will need some serious work to repair, not something that could easily be done in the field. This was a big problem, cuz Chuck was scheduled to lead some of the trails for the Quarterly later in the week! The solution came in the way of he and Ethyl May doubling up with Jimmy and Debbie to lead the trails. To get the crippled Jeep home (it was no longer flat-towable), they loaded it onto Jimmy's trailer, and Debbie drove their Jeep all the way home.

On Tuesday, Jan & I did the Old Hundred Mine and the Mayflower Mill Tours. As soon as we got back on the paved road in Silverton, we heard a "tinkling" sound underneath the Jeep. (No, the Jeep wasn't peeing in the street!) We turned around and found that one of the control arm bolts had sheared off! The problem was that there was still a 1-inch piece of the bolt stuck in the control arm/bracketed assembly. My options were to load the Jeep on the trailer and watch the rest of the week from the sidelines (although I was also scheduled to lead some trails at the Quarterly), or attempt a repair. It was about 3:00 in the afternoon when we decided to go for it. Everyone jumped in (Tom, Chuck, Ed, Jimmy, and Paul) and we started removing the skid plate and long-arm bracket. I have some "easy-outs", **at home**, but that wasn't going to do us much good. So Chuck & I took the arm/bracket assembly to the Triangle Service Station in Silverton to see if they could remove the broken bolt. They could, but not for a couple of days, due to other things they were working on (remember, this was the height of the Jeeping season in this area, so they were swamped with work). However, to my TOTAL surprise, shop owner Bill MacDougall proceeded to LEND us several tools, including a drill, a set of bits, and a set of "easy outs". We took everything back to the campgrounds. We had the broken bolt out within minutes, although I snapped one of Bill's drill bits. I gathered up all of the tools, headed back to the shop, gave Bill a 20 for a couple of bolts,

with enough left over to cover the broken bit and a "tip", and headed back to camp. Everyone pitched in again and we had the Jeep back together well before our 6 pm dinner reservations at the Handlebar restaurant in Silverton. What teamwork! But I am still most impressed with Bill's willingness to help us by lending us his tools! So next time you are in Silverton and in need of some fuel, please stop by Triangle Conoco at 848 Greene Street (970-387-9990). He also has a motel next to the station and does Jeep rentals and repairs as well.



Finally, on the trip home, it was Tom Phillips' turn for some bad luck. We were taking an alternate route home, from Ridgway to Durango via Telluride, in order to avoid some of the many passes on Hwy 550. During one of the few long hill climbs, Tom's 6.0L Powerstroke, which was towing a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel AND his Jeep, started losing power and bellowing out heavy black smoke. He disconnected the Jeep and Carrie drove that to the top of the pass. Tom struggled up the hill with the camper and quickly determined that he probably "blew" the turbo. He drove the rig a few more miles and decided it would be best to drop off the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel at a roadside campground. Thinking that the unloaded truck would make it back to Albuquerque, Tom later decided to leave it at a Ford dealer in Durango. With his vehicles now all spread out across Colorado, Tom pointed out that the rest of our caravan all consisted of Dodge duallys with Cummins turbo diesels. Of course, none of us said a word. It's a very stressful time when a man's truck breaks down, and we aren't the type to kick someone when they are down on their luck (yea,

right!). Anyway, Tom and family all jumped into their Jeep and headed for home, knowing that they would have to make a second trip back up to pick up all of their stuff.

Despite everything that occurred, I believe everyone still had a good time. Oh, and BTW, there's only one thing worse than breaking down while you're on vacation. That's having to deal with it all alone. It was interesting to see everyone's reactions when these various problems occurred. When someone broke down, everyone else was more than willing to do whatever it took to help out. It was no big deal. Kind of adventurous, actually. On the other hand, for the individual whose stuff broke, they felt they were being a burden on the others. But that just isn't true. It's all part of the game. It's part of being a New Mexico 4-Wheeler!

### Photo Albums

by Laurye Tanner

For those of you new to the club or those of you who are just cruising our web site; we have slide shows of our runs on the Internet. The new web site address for the club pictures:

[http://www1.snapfish.com/home/t\\_30021019](http://www1.snapfish.com/home/t_30021019)

If you do not want to personally register with Snapfish, you can use [nm4wphotos@earthlink.net](mailto:nm4wphotos@earthlink.net) as your login, and [jeepers](#) as your password.

For those who are taking pictures on our trips, please e-mail me at [lauryetanner@earthlink.net](mailto:lauryetanner@earthlink.net), or give me a CD of the pictures you have taken. Please let me know the name of the event and who took the pictures. Remember to save your originals.

Glenn and I are trying to get pictures of our members to add to the web site roster on the Member's Only Page. Please e-mail Glenn or me your picture. If you do not have a good picture; I will try to bring a camera at the next meeting and will be glad to take your picture there.



## Club Dues

by Glenn Bontly

Your 2006/2007 club dues (\$35) are due THIS month. According to the By-Laws, if you are not paid up by the end of September, you will be dropped from the membership roster and will have to re-apply as a new member, requiring 5 points and a vote of all of the members *who paid their dues on time!* Don't wait till the last minute; just pay now and get it over with. Send your check or money order to:

**NM4W**

**PO Box 90154**

**Albuquerque, NM 87199-0154**

Sorry, no credit cards. Thanks!! :o)



**For Sale**



- **Tires & Stuff:** Four Goodyear MT/R's, 40x13.50x17, never mounted, \$1,200. Five MRT Bead Locks, 18 bolt ring, 5 on 5½" lug pattern, 15x9, \$500. Fiberglass Rockcrawler Hood, never mounted, \$400. Large output shaft (32 spline) for Dana 300 from Advance Adapters, never installed, \$300. Can deliver to SWFWDA Summer Quarterly in Ridgway, CO. Call Kevin Cutler at 281-479-8689.

- **Jeep TJ Drivetrain Stuff:** Model 231 transfer case, 50K miles, stock, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$400 obo. Dana 35 rear end, complete drum-to-drum, 50K miles, stock with 3.07 gears, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$400 obo. Dana 30 differential housing, yoke-to-yoke, 50K miles, stock with 3.07 gears, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$125. Four inch Lift kit for TJ Wrangler: includes Springs, Control arms, shocks, and whatever else we can find.

Springs are excellent, Control arms and shocks are ugly but serviceable, \$300. Warn Engine Skid Plate for TJ Wrangler, fits short arm suspensions, new in box, never used, complete with all hardware and instructions, \$100. Tires and wheels: 31x10.50 BFG All-Terrains mounted on Alloy rims ('98 TJ; 5 on 4.5" bolt pattern), includes four tires (50% tread remaining) and four rims with some chipping, and a fifth excellent rim with a 30" spare mounted, \$375 takes all. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.

- **Dana 30 Front Axle for TJ:** Complete, 4.56 gears, ARB Air Locker. Opened up and all components checked and OK. Asking \$1000. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.

- **Hi-Lift Jack & Camping Stuff:** 4-foot Hi-Lift Jack, \$25. Front seat from an '82 CJ-7, \$20. Camping stove, \$15. Lantern with carrying case, \$15. Call Glenn Capener at 505-344-2656.

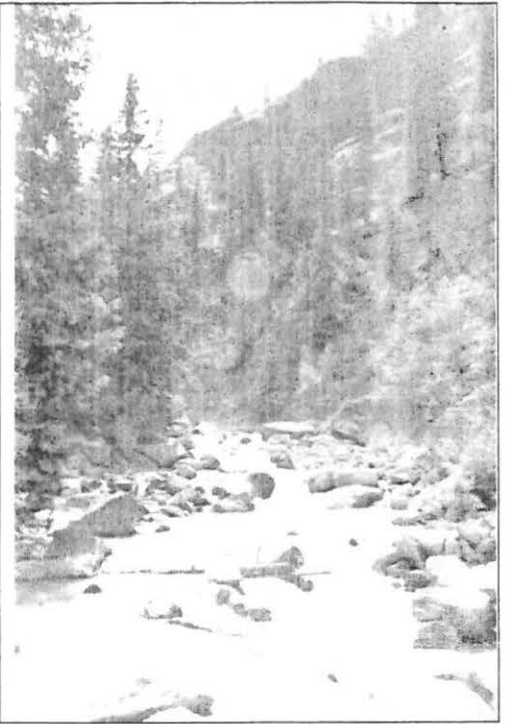
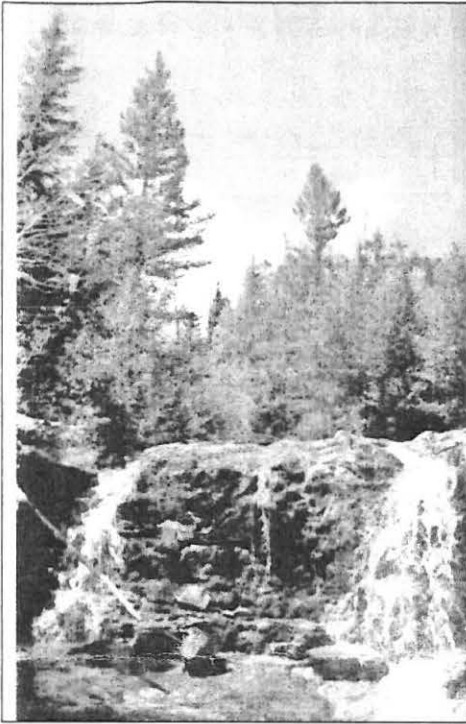
- **4.0 liter engine,** out of 1988 Cherokee, high mileage (198k), \$250. AW4 four-speed automatic also high mileage (includes flexplate and converter), \$300. Package deal! Aforementioned engine and transmission together with complete wiring harness and computer, \$500. Swap the whole shebang into the vehicle of your choice! Also lots of other odds and ends from 1988 Cherokee Laredo. Gather an armload and make me a (really cheap) offer. Call Mark Werkmeister at call 505-891-0296.

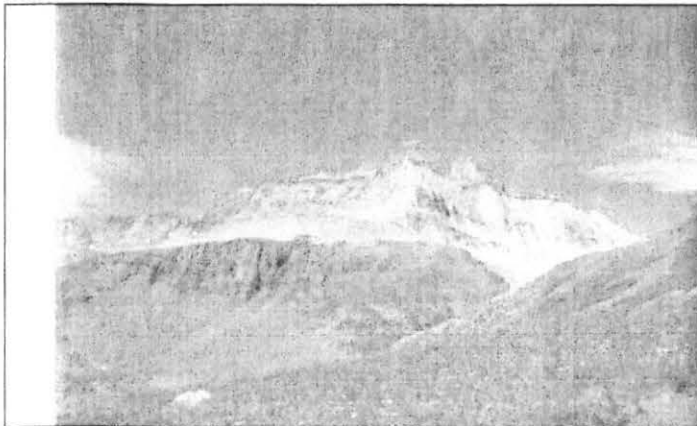
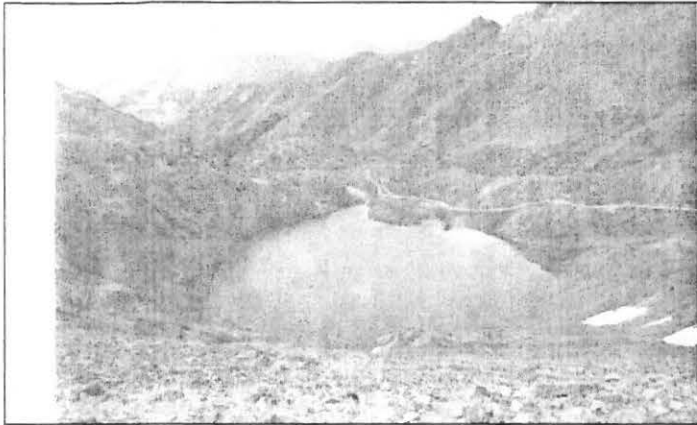
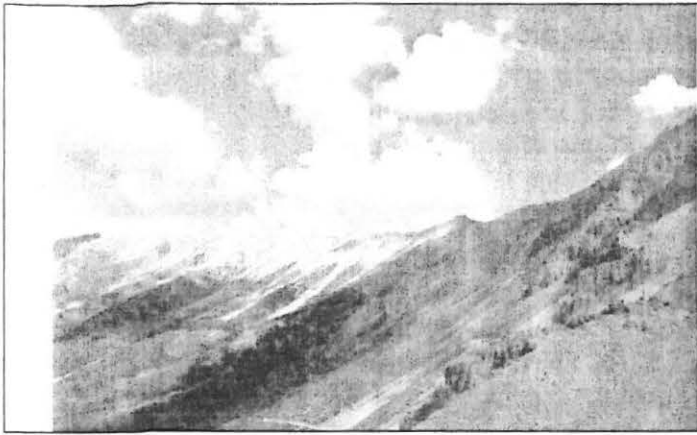
- **Jeep TJ Stuff:** Bestop Trail Cover for 97-04 TJ, Spice color, like new \$60; OEM security trunk \$40. Call Brad Opatz at 505-858-0832.

**For more Classified Ads,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.nm4w.org/wanted-for\\_sale.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/wanted-for_sale.htm)**

**Pictures from the Summer Quarterly in Ridgway**  
(the registration packet stated that “extreme scenery and rich local history”  
could be expected on the trails – here’s a little taste of what we saw)

by Justin Simenson & Rebecca Tafoya







## 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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of Trail Tales is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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, 11404 Oceola Rd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

## NM4W Officers

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>President</b> Lauri Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:president@nm4w.org">president@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Vice-President</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:vice-president@nm4w.org">vice-president@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Secretary</b> Beth Whiston 292-1541 <a href="mailto:secretary@nm4w.org">secretary@nm4w.org</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Treasurer</b> Paul Thompson 293-8390 <a href="mailto:treasurer@nm4w.org">treasurer@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Program Chairman</b> Jerry Marx 922-9370 <a href="mailto:program-chairman@nm4w.org">program-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Historian</b> Laurye Tanner 281-0994 <a href="mailto:historian@nm4w.org">historian@nm4w.org</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Trip Chairman</b> Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 <a href="mailto:trip-chairman@nm4w.org">trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Environmental Affairs</b> Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 <a href="mailto:environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  "Your Name Here" Please Volunteer!</p>

## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Aug 12	Club Meeting at the Peeples'	Call Chuck & Ethyl May	505-866-1185
Sep 1 - 4	Zuni Mountain Exploration	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541
Sep 9	Club Meeting at the Lavy's	Call Jason & Sara	505-792-8035
Sep 29 - Oct 1	Red River Trip	Call Tom Hurt	505-994-2515

Trail Tales  
 11404 Oceola Rd SE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87123





# Trail Tales



September 1, 2006

The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From August 12, 2006

by Beth Whiston



Meeting was held at the home of Chuck & Ethel May Peeples. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm sharp.

**Guests:** Paul Caskey, Phil & Rose Torrez, Preston & Melissa Garner, Rance & Elizabeth Cochrane, Derek Schmidt, Jane Bell.

**Members Present:** Glenn Bontly, Mike & Kristy Coe, Kevin Cox, Eric & Lisa Finch, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Rodger & Barbara Hall, Ron Hyman, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Phil & Carol Kennicott, Tony Lauderbough & Greta Berry, Jason & Sara Lavy, Jerry & Barbara Marx, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Chuck & Ethel May Peeples, Tom & Carrie Phillips, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Mike Robertson & Kathy Wolf, Corey & Tiffany Ryan, Jack & Stella Sierra, Justin Simenson, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Bob Telepak, Paul & Mary Thompson, Craig & Mary Turpin, Frank R. Whiston, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf

**Secretary's Report – Beth Whiston:** Everybody accepted the minutes as printed in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** \$4,647.02 (after he bought his NEW truck!). That includes a little over \$1,000 from dues, \$1,446 from the quarterly. Paul pointed out that the club needs to think about how to spend the money. He gave a detailed report to Lauri. Think about priorities with these available resources.

**Vice President's Report – Mark Wolf:** There were two runs since the last meeting. The Jemez

trip was two weeks before CO. Eleven vehicles were there. The group did Ridge Road by the tunnels, and San Miguel Peak. It was a good day.

Next was the Summer Quarterly in Ridgeway. CO. There were a lot of problems, including Wolfie. There will be no fines; a lot of people paid money to attend this event so Wolfie is going easy. Mark had some problems with his trailer and received a lot of help from Harold Off out of Farmington. Tom Phillips had a bad time too, he lost the turbo in his truck. Tom had to leave parts along the road. Somebody went back to rescue parts for him. Glenn broke a bolt on his suspension, and got everything fixed. A guy in Silverton helped him a lot. AND then there's Chuck. He was up there early...ripped the (TJ) track arm bracket out of the frame! There was ONE fine...a run on Saturday, the leader was riding with somebody because he was broke down. Let's just say that there was a naked passenger in another vehicle. Children were exposed and blinded for life. Somebody took the T-shirt "Jeep Naked" a little too seriously! A good time was had by all.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Frank Whiston:** Most recent trips were Jemez trip on July 16, 2006 led by Mark Wolf and the SW4WDA Summer Quarterly in Ridgeway, CO. on July 27 – 29.

August 26, Frank G. Whiston will lead a group to the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Usually the only way a person can access this area is through scheduled tours, which include a fee. We will be able to travel normally-restricted access roads during this one-day-only opportunity with no access fees. There will be two routes offered. One suitable for cars to drive on that is 13 miles long. The other is a 26 mile route called a "primitive dirt road"; limited to high clearance vehicles. Frank does not expect there to be much 4-wheeling, but it



should be beautiful! There will be educational booths ranging from geology and history, to recreation hunting and fishing. Will they be listening to input? We'll see. Frank will entertain some GPS logging if time permits after the loop has been completed.

Labor Day weekend, Frank G. is also leading an exploratory run in the Zuni Mountains. Bluewater Lake State Park will serve as base camp. He will be traveling down there on Friday. Trail rides will depart on Saturday and Sunday. A potluck is planned for Saturday evening.

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Palo Duro Challenge is scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> by the Amarillo Jeep exclusive club. Frank G. Whiston has information if anybody is interested.

Lauri Rector reported: Mark Werkmeister wants to go to Gordy's Hill on September 23 – 24. The rain and water wiped a lot of stuff out. Waterfalls could be fun! These will be more difficult trails. If you want to go and do something a little more easy, volunteer to lead a trail.

Paul Thompson announced that he will be attending the SWFWDA Fall Quarterly on September 28 – October 1. This will take place at the Y.O. Ranch in Texas Hill Country. For more information visit [www.yoranch.com](http://www.yoranch.com). If you plan to go, contact Paul Thompson.

Tom Hurt is doing his Annual Red River trip on September 29<sup>th</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup>. On Saturday he will lead a run to Goose Lake on free fishing day. Sunday's run will be up to Greene Peak.

Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Frank G. Whiston has a trip to the Needles district of Canyonlands tentatively scheduled.

Mary & Craig Turpin are planning another Balloon Fiesta 4-wheeling event. Pilots are willing to trade rides for a 4-wheel! Drivers can fly in the morning then the 4-wheelers take the pilots to go for a ride in the afternoon. Contact Mary Turpin if you are interested. Mary will send out an e-mail in the next few weeks with details.

Wolfie announced a Caballo Lake trip with a date TBA.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister:** Mark was not present. Lauri did have information for the group. Wolfie, Lauri Rector, and Jerry Marx attended the Espanola District meeting on the roads issue on Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. It was a good meeting, but one that requires immediate action from all of us. The forest service wants trails to be 100% GPS'ed no later than September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006. That is not enough time. We need to write the Forest Supervisor and demand more time to complete our inventories! After they know the trails, there needs to be engineering analysis, an appeals process, maps need to be ready for 2010! NM Off Highway Vehicle Association has GPS logged many miles. They will almost all be single track trails. Trails that are closed now will not be in the inventory, and not considered to be re-opened; unless we resubmit it. The club needs to get out in small groups to GPS trails. We need to make sure we don't GPS trails that have already been done. Maybe a list can be placed on the member website to keep track. Pat Brady has some information that can be placed on the website; he is a coordination point for all this data. He will make a list of GPS coordinates. At this point he does not have a list of trails that have been documented. All we have is what's on Glenn's website. Everybody just needs to go up and do some exploring! Send an e-mail when you go on a trail, let everybody know it has been GPS logged!

This club needs a coordinator for this issue of what trails to run. Barbara Hall is going to head a committee to organize trails that need to be run. Please step up to volunteer. Contact her if you can help. [barbarahall22@earthlink.net](mailto:barbarahall22@earthlink.net)

Questions asked by members:

Q: What format does the Forrest Service use for GPS?

A: *By law, the FS has to accept what we give them. Any format is fine.*

Q: Where should we start the tracks?

*A: Wherever you start; off a major road. Anything and everything. There are many trails that we run that are not on maps!*

Q: Is it every forest in the state that is requiring this?

*A: It is Forest Service and BLM nation wide. We have not heard from BLM. Many states have been dragging their feet. Everybody is required to do this.*

Q: What trails do we need to do this on? Is there a list of what we can GPS?

*A: We need to coordinate our efforts, and soon. We need people to volunteer to lead trails. Maybe e-mail the trails to people and then take volunteers.*

Q: How much more time do we want if we ask for an extension??

*A: 4 months is reasonable, by next Spring. Gates may be closed during winter, fire restrictions.*

Lauri received a Cibola National Forest survey, (link to a website to fill out) She is not sure if they want to hear what she has to say or the whole group. Everybody should fill out that survey. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?A=139527940E28022>. If you have ideas of what is important to say, let Lauri know. She will do a survey to represent the club. Send her an e-mail with feed back.

Cibola National Forest wants to conduct personal interviews with people. Lauri has one scheduled. She is looking for somebody who would like to be a part of that and help her. That is all that Lauri knows that Cibola has done. Each forest is setting there own schedule. Sustainable, safe and fun are the three goals they want to meet. Glen has a schedule of the meetings. It is also on the Santa Fe National forest website.

The Jemez Ranger District is having a meeting on August 15, Wednesday 6:00PM at the Wallatowa visitor center in Jemez. We need to pack the house. Lauri has a form that you can fill out if you can't make it. It can't hurt to fill one out.

**Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx:** We are getting low on club apparel. It is time to

replenish. Jerry would like to place a new order. We have to get in the \$500 to \$600 dollar range to get a good price. If you have a specific want/desire let Jerry know, he will try to fulfill. Let him know what size you want. A motion was made to allocate \$650.00 - \$750.00 for a new order. All were in favor.

Paul mentioned that the winner of the 50/50 pot should not be allowed to re-donate. Keep it! There was a discussion about other members feeling that they need to do that as well. It will be up to that winner to do what they want with the money.

**Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner:** Club members have posted on Snapfish! They did a great job. E-mail Laurye if you need help. Let Laurye know if you want a print she can send it to you in e-mail.

**Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** We still have a website and a newsletter!

**Old Business:** Lauri awarded the member with the highest amount of points to Paul Thompson. He was awarded a \$50.00 gift certificate for Desert Rat. Desert Rat really came through!! They made the gift certificate for \$100.00 but only charged \$50.00! Thank you Desert Rat. Congratulations Paul & Mary Thompson.

Paul Thompson, Mark Wolf, and Glenn Bontly were all nominated as 4-wheeler of the year! Nominees went in the house for members to vote. This is a way to say that we recognize and appreciate a specific member. Votes were counted and Glenn Bontly has been voted as our new 4-wheeler of the year. A plaque will be presented to Glenn next month. Thanks, Glenn for all your hard work and devotion to the club.

Mark Wolf commented that everybody did an excellent job with the Summer Quarterly. He thanked the committee for all their hard work. Cliff Meier worked hard and organized the trails/trips. Jeanne Meier and crew did a great job organizing the registration there in Ridgway. Mike Coe did a wonderful job coordinating that great food. Marcia Duggar also worked hard handling the registration. Trip leaders, thank you as well. We were very

organized and had a great time. Ed found the state park. Thank you Mark Wolf for being the leader!

**New Business:** Paul Caskey has enough points to be voted in and was! Welcome to our club, Paul! Mark Wolf reviewed the point system. Information about the point system can also be found on the club website.

We always do some sort of community service around the holidays. Lauri wants to appoint a committee to come up with some ideas. We want to know the project before voting on an amount to donate. Jerry Marx will be a coordinator. Let Jerry know about a charity that you know or like. Give him information by next months meeting.

Paul Thompson noted that we need to also think about how to spend our club money. \$3, 875.65 was spent last year. Paul will try to put a list together of what the club spent money on last year.

Mark Wolf motioned that we take \$500.00 profit from our summer quarterly and donate it to United Four Wheel Drive, they are having financial trouble. All were in favor to table the motion until next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Thanks to Chuck and all of his family for the great hamburgers!

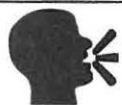
**Winner of the 50/50 drawing:** Paul Caskey won \$63.00 in the 50/50! Wow! Voted into the club and winning money! What's the trick, Paul?

\$127.00 was collected for the raffle. \$64.00 of it went to the club.

conflict management contractor for the Cibola National Forest – also as a part of their Travel Management process. But, I think things will get even busier as I try to help GPS trails in the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) and possibly Cibola National Forest. But, it's all good. Helps to keep me out of trouble and I have learned a lot (and have much more to learn) and have fun too!!!

But, something has been weighing very heavy on my mind, with the September 30<sup>th</sup> cut off date set by SFNF and the very soon to come dates set by Cibola; can we get help from any other off-road enthusiasts in the Albuquerque area? I know they are there – I see them Saturday and Sunday morning heading out to the Puerco and see them those same evenings heading home. I see Jeeps with stickers on them, with almost the exact same design as our club's. I hear about them going down to Gordy's Hill and playing in the water down there and I've heard that they have found the way out to Cimarron Mesa to play out there. I don't recall them being at Gordy's Hill or Cimarron Mesa when we were building those trails and having work days - Gordy's Hill work was on the event schedule. I didn't see them at the Jemez public meeting last week or in Espanola the week before that, but I do remember seeing them in the Jemez district riding the trails just a few weeks ago. Hopefully they won't just sit back on the Travel Management work and leave it all to us. Ok, I'll stop now. I'm not behooved to name names or to dog anyone, just sharing some thoughts with you.

Oh, I must give many thanks to those of you who have stepped up and volunteered your time and effort on the Travel Management. I know that there will be more volunteers coming forth in the next few weeks. This club ROCKS!!!



### President's Report

By Lauri Rector

What a very busy first month I've had. There have been public meetings for the Santa Fe Forest Travel Management process as well as an interview with a

### Pictures on the Web Site

by Laurye Tanner

For those of you new to the club or those of you who are just cruising our web site; we have slide shows of our runs on the Internet. The new web site address for the club pictures: [http://www1.snapfish.com/home/t\\_30021019](http://www1.snapfish.com/home/t_30021019).



If you do not want to personally register with Snapfish, you can use [nm4wphotos@earthlink.net](mailto:nm4wphotos@earthlink.net) as your login, and [jeepers](#) as your password.

For those who are taking pictures on our trips, please e-mail me at [lauryetanner@earthlink.net](mailto:lauryetanner@earthlink.net), or give me a CD of the pictures you have taken. Please let me know the name of the event and who took the pictures. Remember to save your originals. You can also email me and I will tell you how to post your pictures to this site. PLEASE write on the first picture what run this is and who took the pictures.

Glenn and I are trying to get pictures of our members to add to the web site roster on the Member's Only Page. Please e-mail Glenn or me your picture. If you do not have a good picture; I will try to bring a camera at the next meeting and will be glad to take your picture there.

**Member Spotlight:**  
**Tony Louderbaugh & Greta Berry**  
by Joan Wolf



“Seasoned knees” were the impetus for Tony Louderbough buying his Jeep and joining NM4W. For someone who grew up hiking and sometimes carrying a 45-lb. backpack, it was tough to acknowledge that his knees weren’t taking kindly to long and strenuous hikes. Nowadays, he and Greta still hike—they just use the Jeep to get them to

jumping-off places. Says Tony, “The Jeep will take us to 5,000 ft., and then we’ll hike the last 2,000 ft.”

Tony actually had a four-wheeling stint in his late teens, when he had a BMW motorcycle and his brother had a Nissan Patrol. They sometimes traded vehicles and Tony remembers taking the Patrol into the Manzanos. Then came school, family, and career—and not enough time or money for four-wheeling.

Three years ago, Tony and his wife, Greta (pronounced like Rita with a G), rented a Jeep in Ouray. After paying \$150/day rental fees and having the Jeep scrutinized for the tiniest scratch, they decided to get their own Jeep. In January 2006, Tony bought his 1999 Wrangler TJ from a Tucson resident. For this long-distance purchase, Tony cajoled his daughter, a University of Arizona student, into checking out the TJ. She crawled under the Jeep, cell phone in hand, checking this and that for Dad (sounds like Dad owes daughter for that one!).

Tony learned about NM4W online and from member Jordan Souza who sold him a roof rack. After earning their points, Tony and Greta joined NM4W in July 2006.

Tony is at a crossroads with his Jeep. It’s stock and has a 6-cylinder, manual transmission. He’s added rocker guards and 31” MT/R tires. But now that he’s had the TJ off road, he’s thinking lockers, axles, and Dana 44s. He’s pondering whether to upgrade the TJ or trade for a Rubicon (the proverbial boys-and-their-toys dilemma).

Now, back to the interesting stuff, Greta is a Farmington native and moved to Albuquerque to attend UNM. A Social Worker for many years, Greta now operates a home-based business, Human Initiatives Inc. She’s a job profiler, meaning she identifies types of professions and current job skills needed by industry. For example, she learned that Landscape Technicians didn’t have the skill to back up a truck and trailer. So TVI (we’re now supposed to call it Central New Mexico Community College) incorporated backing up a truck and trailer into the curriculum for Landscape Technicians. Greta’s findings helped business, students, and the school.

Tony was born in Watertown, Connecticut and moved to Albuquerque at age 9. His father had come through Albuquerque during the war and after one too many gray, cold winters moved the family to New Mexico sunshine. Tony earned his Social Work degree at NMSU and works for the State of New Mexico, Adult Protective Services Division. A Social Worker and Investigator, he investigates abuse and neglect in nursing homes and assisted-living facilities. Tony says, "It's a 'fun' job because you do something extremely useful. We bust bad people who do bad things to the elderly." Tony stresses that many facilities are good and there are just a few bad apples.

Greta and Tony have two daughters. Sarah is a Montessori teacher in Portland, Oregon and Jeanne is a PhD student in Molecular Biology at the U of A (she's the daughter who crawled under the TJ). The family has two dogs, Cleo and Chancellor. They're pound dogs and a bit large for the Jeep—so they haven't been on outings yet.

An interesting family story is how Greta's sister, Marty Morgan, became an Albuquerque resident. Greta's father passed away on August 24, 2005 (our condolences to Greta). The day before Hurricane Katrina hit, Marty, a New Orleans resident, left New Orleans to attend their father's memorial service in Farmington. The hurricane spared the family's home, but not their jobs. The family relocated to Albuquerque and her sister got a job at Intel. Greta and Tony's nephew, Marten, was given a scholarship at Sandia Prep. This generosity allowed him to complete his education at a high school on par with his New Orleans school. Greta, her sister, and their families are happy they ended up safe and sound in Albuquerque.

Greta is an accomplished "tool girl" according to Tony. She excels at landscaping and carpentry. Tony likes to cook, especially pasta (he's Italian) and fish. Their favorite pastime is traveling to scenic, outdoor areas. Cities don't hold much interest for them.

Their ultimate dream is a long-term camping trip from the Canadian Rockies to the Alaskan Yukon. But for now, they look forward to shorter trips—the

Valle Calderas driving tour on August 26, maybe something in the Silver City area, and more trips to Colorado. They had a great time running Imogene Pass and Buffalo Boy at the NM4W-hosted Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association's Summer Quarterly.

As a two-month member, Tony appreciates NM4W members' willingness to share driving tips (picking lines, using low range, etc). He's equally appreciative of the group's Tread Lightly philosophy. "It's important to be proactive in preserving what we respectfully do in the forest. We need a club to advocate our use." Well said from an outdoor enthusiast with seasoned knees whose seeking access to the backcountry via Jeep.

**From the Office of the  
Director of Environmental Affairs**  
by Mark Werkmeister

Greetings NM4W club members!

**First of all, I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to attend a meeting, GPS a trail, or gotten involved in any way in helping to define the future of motorized recreation on the Santa Fe National Forest!** Those that have taken the time to be involved are owed a great deal by the others whose schedules have not allowed them to participate. Those that have been involved will be owed a great deal of gratitude by everyone who enjoys the Santa Fe National Forest trails for years to come!

Here is a quick report of where the process is, where it is going, and what YOUR next steps should be.

First of all, an update on the process:

The Forest Service is about two thirds through their initial "kick-off" public meeting schedule. If you haven't been able to attend one yet (and I highly recommend that you try to attend one) the best opportunity is the meeting in Santa Fe on Wednesday night, 30 Aug. It is at the Unitarian Church Auditorium located at 107 W Barcelona

Road in Santa Fe. The meeting is from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. It is best to be there by 6:00 pm as this is run as an actual meeting with an agenda, and not an "open house" format. It will be possible to leave earlier because most of the information is in the first two hours of the meeting.

And now, on to the "where it is going":

There is currently a deadline of September 30<sup>th</sup> for the FS to receive all user input to the trail inventory. By "user input", I mean GPS tracks of any routes that we want considered, that are not currently on the FS maps. **More on this later in the report.** Based on user input at the previous meetings, the FS is considering a revised schedule, but will not make the decision until after all of the kick-off meetings have concluded. So if you want to help influence their decision, attend the Santa Fe meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> and make it clear that we welcome an extension! The Forest Service has clearly indicated that they will take all forms of route information. This includes GPS tracks from common GPS units like Garmin, Magellen, etc., lines drawn on maps, copies of old maps, even sketches on the back of napkins. **BUT, naturally, the better the information, the easier it is for them to add it to the inventory so GPS information is the most useful.**

One of the issues that the FS heard the loudest at the Jemez meeting (and I am assuming at other meetings) is the availability of the current inventory on maps that are available to the public. After the Jemez meeting, the FS agreed to publish the maps in a format (Adobe/.pdf) that is much easier to access. They were able to accomplish this by the following Friday! The maps are currently posted on their Travel Management website toward the bottom of the page. The maps that we primarily need to look at are the first and third ones on the list. These maps consist of the background, the routes, AND the FS road numbers for the east and west side of the SFNF.

Due to the background, these are HUGE files with the west half being almost 30MB. You will need a pretty fast connection to be able to successfully download the map before you fall asleep or get so hungry that you order a pizza. I am seeking a place

to get hard copies of these maps produced at a reasonable cost. Even if it costs us a bunch (I was quoted up to \$10.00 a square foot which would make the maps \$120 a piece!), we can produce one for "group" use. I hope to have maps produced this weekend. If I can get some made, I will post the information and/or set up a time and place for us to review them as a club.

And that brings us to next steps. **It is still very important to get all of our routes GPS'ed by September 30<sup>th</sup> if they are not on the current Forest Service maps. BUT, and this is a big "BUT", please take the opportunity to check the FS maps to see if the routes are already there. If they are, GPS'ing is a complete waste of our time and effort. If the routes are already on the inventory maps, we don't need to GPS them!!!! I have checked the maps pretty extensively, and they seem to be very complete. So....please check the maps, determine what needs to be GPS'ed and then work on the stuff that is missing!!!! I think it will be primarily little connectors or slight reroutes that need to be mapped if anything at all.**

After the inventory process is complete, we will be moving into the next step, which is to identify the routes and route networks that we want identified as part of the motorized recreation system. Just because the routes are in the inventory and on the maps, doesn't mean that they won't still be eliminated during the rest of this process. We need to create logical loops and networks incorporating our favorite routes. We need to identify any additional links that need to be added to create the loops and networks. Ultimately, we will need to produce a "Citizen's Proposal" that formally nominates these routes as appropriate for motorized use. I guarantee that the FS will be receiving a citizen's proposal from the closurists and WE WON'T LIKE IT. We need to make sure that we have produced our own proposal that provides an opposing viewpoint! I will have much more information and methods on this (we have examples to use as a template) as the process moves along.

**First things first though...**



1. Attend a “kick-off” meeting if your schedule allows and you haven’t attended one yet. See the remaining schedule here: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgt/tmrad.pdf>
2. Review the inventory maps that the FS has posted to the web site. See them at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgt/index.html>
3. Compare the inventory maps to our own knowledge of our routes. Don’t forget to look at things other than the western ridge of the Jemez. How about the stuff on the Caja del Rio? Tank Trap? And etc.
4. GPS anything that is missing.
5. Stay involved, vocal, and positive!

Mark  
Your humble DEA

**Santa Fe National Forest**  
by Wolfie

All: I want to personally thank your new President, Lauri Rector, and also Jerry Marx for attending the Espanola District meeting on the roads issue with me. It was a good meeting, but one that requires immediate action from all of us! We need to write the Forest Supervisor and demand more time to complete our inventories! They want this all to be 100% GPS’ed and turned in NO LATER THAN September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006!!! That is typical of the US Government, but an issue that demands we be prepared to act. The maps that each district has are available for download from the websites. Unfortunately, we cannot access (unless Mark Werkmeister can get Gordon Spigel to share his work) what has already been done and not duplicate efforts. That is a bummer and one that will take us more time. Please leave your time open for this all important effort in the next two months! We will need every abled body and GPS smoking a gun to get this done. WE WILL NOT HAVE A SECOND CHANCE!!!!!!! Thanks! Wolfie

**More on the Santa Fe National Forest**  
by Wolfie

Members: I attended the Cuba District meeting last night and heard something that I had not heard before at these meetings – part of this review is to potentially abolish the 300’ rule for dispersed (undeveloped) camping! That means all of you hunters and people that do not like to use developed campgrounds (like our favorite retreat in the Jemez) would be banned from using these types of areas for camping. They are also looking at limiting or totally restricting game retrieval. Let’s get out there and show ‘em we don’t like that one!

Also, Mr. Potts (USFS) said that he had taken quite a few calls and e-mails from the ANTI’s saying they want ALL routes closed and to take the cattle with them. We need to “**Pack the house**” on August 30<sup>th</sup> in Santa Fe! They said the Church holds 150 people – *let’s fill it up with ONLY motorized folks!* See you there!

Wolfie, VP & Sheriff

**Four Wheeler of the Year**  
by Glenn Bontly

It is well known that the most coveted awards are those bestowed by one’s peers. I am truly honored that you voted me as NM4Wheeler of the Year. It is my pleasure to maintain the club web site and to publish the Trail Tales each month. Your support of me in these two endeavors really makes my job easy! *Thank you!!!*

**Ballooning and Four Wheeling**  
by Mary Turpin

OK, so our Balloon Fiesta/Jeeping event is going a little bit different direction than I expected, but it sounds like fun.

**In brief** - as we announced at the last meeting, Craig and I are working on organizing another Jeep/Balloon Pilot day of "play with big toys" (that's what it works out to! :)

We are shooting for the last Friday of Balloon Fiesta (10/6), although that is somewhat tentative, as is much of Fiesta since it is so dependent on weather.

Here's what we did last year - kind of what we expect this year:



Pilots were generous enough to offer that any off-roader who would drive for off-roading would get to fly. This had to be coordinated, sometimes at the last minute (that weather thing again - at least one morning (Wed??) Mark Berglund was at my house at 5:00 a.m., until we got the call that flights were scrapped for the day - thankfully he still speaks to us!). While I cannot speak for them and extend the offer in their place, I will say that we crew for a fabulous group of Canadians.

After flying Friday morning, we met for pizza at our house (north valley) and went out off-roading for the afternoon. Some even went to dinner that night (pilots and NM4Wers), making for a whole lot of hours spent together that day!

If you haven't heard the story - some of the pilots thought we were going to go out and drive around on some dirt roads for a while, and maybe see some cows. While NM4Wers consider the Rio Puerco fairly mild overall, the pilots thought we had gone crazy. Snoopy's Rock caused panic in some.

Everyone had a blast, though. We all concluded we all have big toys that cost way too much, that we

hope not to die in, and that another group out there thinks is crazy and maybe odd. It was a great "meeting of two worlds" kind of experience.

I do not know how many vehicles are required right now. Last year we took 6 vehicles and about 19 passengers (there was some squishing involved :).

So basically, if you have any interest, and a somewhat flexible schedule, let us know if you would like to join us.

\*\*\*As you may have notice I am also forwarding a note from the AIBF Community Realtions Rep, Kathie. I have worked with her on other stuff before and she is a huge inspiration for anything AIBF related.

She would like to get some off-roaders together with some pilots to do some PR about our community-building endeavor. AIBF is looking at it as an opportunity to recruit crew (human interest/bonds between crews and pilots) and NM4Wers could get some great PR for being generous community hosts.

Those NM4Wers/VJC's who went with us last year (Chet, Phil, Bill, Chris, Mark) would be able to speak to last year's play day. Those of you who would like to go this year could help present enthusiasm for sharing hobbies and making out-of-towners feel welcome in ABQ.



If you think you could make it on Fri (1 Sep) or Sat (the 2<sup>nd</sup>), please let me know ASAP. I will keep a

tally and let Kathie know ASAP. I will then relay info back to you (NM4Wers) about next weekend as I get it. As Craig does not work Friday, and I have some flexibility with my job, either day would work for us.

:) Mary Turpin

+++++

Hi Mary,

I really, really want to stage a press event with balloon and chase crew next week (Friday morning or Saturday morning) if possible.

Can you get your pilot and your "Jeepers" out to the park at 7:00 am on either of those days? If so, let's get working on it! We really, really need chase crew, and this will help our mutual causes tremendously!

Kathie Leyendecker

**Club Dues--Correction**  
by Glenn Bontly

No one pointed out my error, but in my reminder last month about dues, I misstated that "according to the By-Laws, if you are not paid up by the end of September, you will be dropped from the membership roster . . ." In reality, it's the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that identify when dues must be paid and it states that you will be delinquent on 1 Sep, not the end of Sep!. Sorry for the confusion.



• **28-Foot Gooseneck Trailer** with 3-foot dovetail, like new, used only twice! \$4,500 OBO. Call Bobby & Susan Miller at 505-771-8022 and leave message.

• **Tires & Stuff:** Four Goodyear MT/R's, 40x13.50x17, never mounted, \$1,200. Five MRT Bead Locks, 18 bolt ring, 5 on 5½" lug pattern, 15x9, \$500. Large output shaft (32 spline) for Dana 300 from Advance Adapters, never installed, \$300. Call Kevin Cutler at 281-479-8689.

• **Jeep TJ Drivetrain Stuff:** Model 231 transfer case, 50K miles, stock, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$400 obo. Dana 35 rear end, complete drum-to-drum, 50K miles, stock with 3.07 gears, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$400 obo. Dana 30 differential housing, yoke-to-yoke, 50K miles, stock with 3.07 gears, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$125. Four inch Lift kit for TJ Wrangler: includes Springs, Control arms, shocks, and whatever else we can find. Springs are excellent, Control arms and shocks are ugly but serviceable, \$300. Warn Engine Skid Plate for TJ Wrangler, fits short arm suspensions, new in box, never used, complete with all hardware and instructions, \$100. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.

• **Dana 30 Front Axle for TJ:** Complete, 4.56 gears, ARB Air Locker. Opened up and all components checked and OK. Asking \$1000. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.

• **Hi-Lift Jack & Camping Stuff:** 4-foot Hi-Lift Jack, \$25. Front seat from an '82 CJ-7, \$20. Camping stove, \$15. Lantern with carrying case, \$15. Call Glenn Capener at 505-344-2656.

• **4.0 liter engine,** out of 1988 Cherokee, high mileage (198k), \$250. AW4 four-speed automatic also high mileage (includes flexplate and converter), \$300. Package deal! Aforementioned engine and transmission together with complete wiring harness and computer, \$500. Swap the whole shebang into the vehicle of your choice! Also lots of other odds and ends from 1988 Cherokee Laredo. Gather an armload and make me a (really cheap) offer. Call Mark Werkmeister at call 505-891-0296.

**For more Classified Ads,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.nm4w.org/wanted-for\\_sale.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/wanted-for_sale.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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of Trail Tales is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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, 11404 Ocoola Rd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Lauri Rector 228-6547 <a href="mailto:president@nm4w.org">president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:vice-president@nm4w.org">vice-president@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Beth Whiston 292-1541 <a href="mailto:secretary@nm4w.org">secretary@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Paul Thompson 293-8390 <a href="mailto:treasurer@nm4w.org">treasurer@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Jerry Marx 922-9370 <a href="mailto:program-chairman@nm4w.org">program-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Laurye Tanner 281-0994 <a href="mailto:historian@nm4w.org">historian@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Trip Chairman</b> Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 <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!



# Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Sep 1 – 4	Zuni Mountain Exploration	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541
Sep 5	Santa Fe Nat'l Forest Travel Mgmt Mtg – Los Alamos	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Sep 16	Club Meeting at the Lavy's	Call Jason & Sara	505-792-8035
Sep 23 – 24	Gordy's Hill Trip	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Sep 29 – Oct 1	Red River Trip	Call Tom Hurt	505-994-2515

Trail Tales  
 11404 Oceola Rd SE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87123





# Trail Tales



October 1, 2006

The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From September 16, 2006  
by Beth Whiston



Meeting was held at the home of Jason and Sara Lavy. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM sharp.

**Guests:** Greg Brown, Brian Hawthorne (Blue Ribbon Coalition), David Lacour, Kenneth Gaw.

**Members Present:** Paul & Eveliina Baca, Glenn Bontly, Paul Caskey, Keith Chapin, Mike Coe, Heath Hislop, Tom Hurt, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Jason & Sara Lavy, Jerry & Barbara Marx, Bob Norton, Dan Pritchard, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Mike Robertson & Kathy Wolf, Justin Simenson & Rebecca, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Paul & Mary Thompson, Craig & Mary Turpin, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Joan Wolf.

**Secretary's Report – Beth Whiston:** Everybody accepted the minutes as printed in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** \$5,579.15. We have SW dues to pay soon (about \$1,000).

**Vice President's Report – Mark Wolf:** Joan was representing the V.P.; Mark was on a hunting trip. There were no fines. Laurye Tanner objected. She had fines: First the leader (Frank G.) at the Caldera left part of the group on the highway. The Tanner's were lost (in a sea of vehicles). Then, two people, (Paul and Chuck) snuck in line and then did not even wave! Those are Laurye's personal fines. Frank G. said she should be fined for taking a truck on a Jeep run! I think Laurye may have actually agreed with that?

Scott Thompson has requested to join as an Associate member. He lives in Chandler, AZ. Paul Thompson says that he does have a pretty cool Jeep. There was a motion to vote him in. All were in favor. Welcome Scott Thompson!

**Trip Chairman's Report – Frank Whiston:** Valles Caldera was quite an experience. The loop was closed down and made an in and out. There was two-way traffic on a one-way road. It was hard to stay together, but they tried. It was beautiful country. After the Caldera experience, a small number of people wheeled over Cat Mesa and came out at Ponderosa.

There was the Zuni Mountain run over Labor Day weekend. The group was made up of 9 vehicles on the first day and 8 on the second. It was very beautiful after all the rain; there were many wildflowers. It was definitely an area that Frank G. plans to go back to.

On the weekend of September 23<sup>rd</sup> Mark Werkmeister will be organizing a trip to Gordy's Hill.

September 29 - October 1 is the annual Red River trip. Tom Hurt pointed out that the Goose Lake trail is under construction. He may plan on doing other trails around town. So there may not be any fishing. He will send an e-mail out with more details before leaving ABQ.

September 28 – October 1 is the Fall Quarterly at the Y.O. Ranch in Texas Hill Country.

October 6 and 7 Mark Wolf will be leading a Caballo Lake trip.

Needles District Canyonlands trip (October 3 – 8) has been cancelled due to conflicts. If anybody is



interested in this trip maybe we can do again in the Spring. Contact Frank G. Whiston if you have even a slight interest.

October 13 is the October Balloon/Wheeling event. Mary Turpin reported that there are fewer pilots and crew coming down from Canada. She would like to open it up to other crews. She does not really know how many drivers are needed yet. She had talked about wheeling in the Jemez; people have expressed concerns about the time of day that this would start. So it is not much of an option. Maybe do the Rio Puerco again?

New Runs: Sunday, September 17, Tom Hurt is going out to Glorieta Mesa. He does not know what it will be like. He's taking the Suburban. Nobody had any information to offer about the roads.

Lauri Rector is going to McMillan Canyon and Church Canyon on October 1<sup>st</sup> (*postponed as of this publication date*). She will plan on meeting anybody interested at the Conoco on 528/550 at 9:00am. She is planning on getting these trails GPS logged; they are not on the Forest map.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister:** Not present.

Lauri informed the group that the travel management meetings for SF forest are done. They have not heard anything about extending the deadline. There is a strong possibility that we will get more time.

Mark had the mapping party at his house. It was very productive. The group made a list of about 20 trails. 12 – 15 trails were on the map. People were assigned trails to go GPS.

Brian Hawthorne, with BlueRibbon Coalition, introduced himself and spoke to the group. Brian is the Public Lands Director for BlueRibbon Coalition. He explained a little about the organization; it is a national umbrella OHV group. Brian shared a little about himself and how he became a part of BlueRibbon Coalition; he wrote a fundraising letter and was asked to get a Utah umbrella group started. He pointed out that NM has the most acreage that is going under planning.

Right now as we are all aware there is legislation planning taking place in Las Cruces that will affect the Chile Challenge. Brian is in town working with the State association on the planning. If you have any questions at all about the planning you can call BlueRibbon. More information about the organization can be found at [www.blueribbon.org](http://www.blueribbon.org)

**Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx:** Jerry will allow a few more weeks for input on shirt orders. Send it to him in e-mail. He is selling raffle tickets for the 50/50. \$1.00 a piece or 6/\$5.00. You will receive an extra ticket if wearing a NM4W article.

Frank R. Whiston asked about ordering hooded zip-up sweatshirts. Jerry said it is possible, but there has to be a given number of people interested to place an order. He needs to make sure we can sell that style. E-mail Jerry at [program-chairman@nm4w.org](mailto:program-chairman@nm4w.org) if you are interested in this!

**Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner:** Laurye has received one CD. She is not getting any pictures or e-mails! Please send pictures!!

**Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** We have a website and a newsletter.

**Old Business:** Glenn Bontly was voted NM4Wheeler of the year. He was presented with a beautiful plaque. Congratulations Glenn!

Christmas community service: Please e-mail suggestions to Jerry Marx. Paul Thompson said we have about \$800 to contribute (he said he pulled that figure out of the air). Paul Thompson also pointed out that we are overdue a donation to the Heights Cumberland Church where we meet for our winter meetings.

Are there any volunteers for the Christmas party??? If you are interested in hosting the party please volunteer by November.

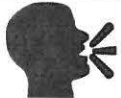
**New Business:** Mary Thompson and Joan Wolf will head a summer meeting committee. They plan to organize a summer club meeting at Carolino open space and make an afternoon/evening out of it. Carolino open space has covered tables, horseshoe,

and volleyball available. Sounds like fun! The cost is \$200 (\$75 of this is a damage deposit that will be returned). There was a motion to vote to use this money. All were in favor. The committee will let us know which month this will take place.

Mike Coe asked if anybody had heard about the swap meet in Belen. Route 66 Rodders is the sponsor of this swap meet. Mike Coe will look into it and give details at the next meeting.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:30.** Thank you Sara and Jason for hosting!

**Winner of the 50/50 drawing:** \$123.00 was collected. Heath Hislop (you know...The Cheesecake Guy) won \$61.00!



### **President's Report** By Lauri Rector

Another month has gone by again? Time seems to fly when you're having fun, and even when you're not. Between working and trying to get some things done around the house, it's hard to find time to just go out and play, how sad is that. And add in time to help out the club and the sport of off-roading, and a month goes by in just a blink.

This month I would like to thank all of the club members who have stepped up and volunteered to help out with either the club or the sport or both. We have a very viable club with a lot going on. This is due to our club members and their willingness to give up some free time and help in some form or fashion. This is what makes us such a strong and growing club. You all help to make my position much easier. I'm very proud to say that I'm a member of this club, as well as its President for the next year. Thanks to all of you!!!

### **Pictures on the Internet** by Laurye Tanner

For those of you new to the club or those of you who are just cruising our web site; we have slide

shows of our runs on the Internet. The new web site address for the club pictures:

[http://www1.snapfish.com/home/t\\_30021019](http://www1.snapfish.com/home/t_30021019)

If you do not want to personally register with Snapfish, you can use [nm4wphotos@earthlink.net](mailto:nm4wphotos@earthlink.net) as your login, and [jeepers](#) as your password.

For those who are taking pictures on our trips, please e-mail me at [lauryetanner@earthlink.net](mailto:lauryetanner@earthlink.net), or give me a CD of the pictures you have taken. Please let me know the name of the event and who took the pictures. Remember to save your originals.

### **Member Spotlight:** **Erwin & Jeannie Greven** by Joan Wolf



Considering how much country they've already seen (Erwin has been to 50 states, Jeannie to 47), the Grevens still appreciate the many new, fascinating places they've discovered with NM4W. Says Erwin, "The club is a good bunch of people who have a lot of fun and come up with neat trips." Some of their favorite "new" places to date: Canyon de Chelly, Caballo Lake, and Silverton.

Erwin learned about NM4W through a Google search three years ago. He and Cliff Meier had Trackers and wanted to four-wheel in areas close to Albuquerque. However, four-wheeling isn't new to either Erwin or Jeannie. Erwin's first 4WD vehicle was a 4-cylinder 1961 International Scout. Later, he drove a 1968 Jeepster, but sold it when it started costing too much (hey, Erwin, will you explain this

concept to my husband?). After the 2005 Chile Challenge, they decided the Trackers weren't up to Las Cruces-type rockcrawling. So Erwin and Cliff both got Jeeps.

Jeannie has enjoyed four-wheeling since her first Jeep run with relatives in Elsinore, CA. She was 10 years old and thought four-wheeling was the coolest thing imaginable. As a young adult, Jeannie learned about operating a 4WD vehicle during a summer job with the BLM in northern New Mexico. As low person on the totem pole, she got the last vehicle in the parking lot—an International Travel All. She headed out alone on her first day—and got stuck. She figured out how to winch, put in a deadman, and get the beast back to the yard (it was either that or tell the boss what happened). Jeannie still likes the challenge of using a 4WD vehicle to reach the backcountry.

The Grevens met in Minneapolis, but were literally born continents apart; Jeannie in San Bernardino, CA, and Erwin in Holland. Erwin's father was in the Dutch Merchant Marine, a career that took the family to New Zealand and other places. After his seafaring days, Erwin's father settled the family in Minneapolis where his brothers lived. Erwin attended high school in Minneapolis and then studied automotive repair and sheet metal at a tech school. He lived in Catalina, AZ (north of Tucson) and Plains, MT, then returned to Minneapolis. Erwin and Jeannie met at a dance in 1989 and married the next year.

Jeannie's route to Minneapolis was via Humboldt State College in Arcata, CA. Always an animal lover and outdoor enthusiast, she earned her B.S. in Wildlife Management at Humboldt. She worked several years for the Army Corps of Engineers in St. Paul, MN, and then transferred to U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Jeannie has written EIS (Environmental Impact Statements) for flood control projects, operated the federal aid program (funded by the taxes collected from gun sales and fishing equipment), and planned new wildlife refuges.

Currently, Jeannie is the Assistant Refuge Supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Regional office covering New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, and Texas. That office oversees 44 U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Refuges, including six in New Mexico. Her specific tasks are to coordinate permits, policy, and compatibility of refuges with various governmental requirements. Even though she's more deskbound these days, Jeannie has visited most of the New Mexico refuges (Bosque del Apache, Sevellita, Bitter Lake, Las Vegas, Maxwell, and San Andres) and many Texas refuges.

Erwin has always been a hands-on guy. He worked in sheet metal, auto repair, and drove a Chevron tanker truck. He used to own CARS, a Cedar Crest automotive repair shop. Then he worked for many years with Snap-On Tools and more recently with Cornwell Tools. Due to the slower economy, Cornwell Tools combined routes and eliminated Erwin's route. While between jobs, he's catching up on projects at their house and two-acre property in Sandia Park.

Their two horses, Honcho and Buck, also keep Erwin busy. Both Jeannie and Erwin, along with Cliff Meier, belong to the Back Country Horsemen group. They maintain trails in the wilderness areas in the Pecos and Manzanos, and regularly do work projects. Erwin and Cliff also serve as Torrance County Reserve Deputies (they do everything in law enforcement except write tickets). They often work the Balloon Fiesta atop their horses.



For relaxation, Jeannie likes to garden and watch movies. She's very knowledgeable about birds, flowers, and nature in general. At the Labor Day 2006 trip to the Zuni Mountains, Jeannie identified the big white bird we saw at Bluewater Lake as a



white pelican and seemed to know something about every rock on the ground. Jeannie and Erwin enjoy the time spent out of the Jeep as much as the windshield time. On the Zuni Mountain trip, they loved tromping around Diener, a ghost town, and Sawyer, an old logging camp with part of a trestle still visible. The Grevens are fascinated (and knowledgeable) about the history, flora, and fauna of the West.

Their '98 TJ has been getting them to the backcountry for the past year. Erwin found the TJ at Quality Jeep and says it was "junked up", but had a Dana 44 and was clean underneath. He's put in a 3½" lift, sway bar disconnects, front and rear bumpers, winch, and tire carrier combo. He's thinking about lockers and roll bar reinforcement.

Erwin and Jeannie have done the Moab Easter Jeep Safari the past five years and always find the trails awesome. To them, the crowds are exciting and it's fun when the Moab residents/visitors line the streets and wave as the Jeeps head for the trails. This year, the Fins & Things trail rated as Erwin and Jeannie's favorite. Two California trails they want to tackle are the Rubicon and the Mojave Road (an old stagecoach line, also of historic military significance).

Passionate about travel, the Grevens have toured Hong Kong, Ireland, Europe, and New Zealand. They also make time to visit family: Erwin's two grown sons and baby granddaughter in Minneapolis, his father in Arizona, and Jeannie's mother and sister in northern California.

Erwin and Jeannie have traveled to new places thanks to NM4W. And thanks to them, we've learned to appreciate some neat stuff outside the Jeeps.

**From the Office of the  
Director of Environmental Affairs**  
by Mark Werkmeister

There have been several items of note this past month. Most of them have been communicated via email, but here is a quick rehash for those of you who haven't been around:

#### Santa Fe National Forest Travel Management Plan:

First of all, a big THANK YOU to all the club members who showed up for the "map marking party" at my house! Great work by all involved! We got a lot done and laid the foundation for more work in the coming months.

The kick-off meetings have wrapped up and the TMP team received overwhelming feedback that more time for user input was needed. Team Lead, Rob Potts, notified me that the deadline for user input will be extended to January 15<sup>th</sup>. There should be a formal press release out shortly. There are two points to be made about this extension. First, we have been given a great opportunity because we asked for it, now let's not waste it. Let's ensure that ALL of the trail/routes/roads that we want to be considered are identified on the maps. This includes any NEW opportunities that provide additional range of difficulty, create better loops, access interesting areas, etc. Let's get the information to the FS as soon as possible and not wait until January to turn our routes in to them. Secondly, this extension will not come without a "cost" in the form of some other piece of the process either being shortened or run concurrently with the user input. The Forest Service's final date hasn't moved so if we have more time to provide input, something else had to change to accommodate it. Again, let's make sure we don't waste it. Don't wait for the last minute to get out and explore/map and don't wait for the snow to fly! Oh! One more thing. Make sure you give the Forest Service, especially the Travel Management Team, a big THANK YOU via a letter or the next time you see them. Let them know how much we appreciate the extension and the opportunity to work with them.

The next step in the process, while we are gathering our data, will be a series of workshop meetings to start discussing what type of opportunities we need on the Forest. I will see to it that the club gets plenty of notice and background information/material to ensure we

are successful in representing and articulating our needs.

#### Trackways Monument:

The proposed national monument north of Las Cruces has taken many twists and turns. Fred Huff has been invited to go to Washington DC this week to testify before the Senate committee that is considering this legislation. We believe that it is losing steam and will ultimately be killed. You can help kill it by contacting Senator Domenici's and Senator Bingaman's offices and letting them know that you do not support making the area a national monument.

I was also able to attend a meeting in Las Cruces to discuss the possibility of a comprehensive land use bill for the public lands of Dona Ana County. The meeting was sponsored by the City of Las Cruces at the request of Senator Domenici's office. They are interested in wider public input before they draft the bill. The bill would include the Wilderness Study Areas there and could also include the area proposed for the trackways. It was a very positive meeting, and the motorized recreationists in attendance (LCFWDC, SWFWDA, FMCA Four Wheelers, and NMOHVA) provided lots of compelling information to the City about appropriate designations for the areas. We will all continue to participate in this effort.

That is enough for you to chew on for now. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me!

#### **Trail GPS'ing in the Jemez** by Mark Wolf

I wanted to lead a run to the Jemez to GPS a trail that I have driven a couple of times over the last few years and enjoy very much. I put out a call to the membership and was awarded with eleven vehicles and several people to go with me on Saturday, August 26th. This included several guests, thanks mostly to Phil Rodacy. Those in attendance were Phil Rodacy and his friend Jim

Fulkerson in his TJ, Craig & Mary Turpin and girls in their Rubicon, Kathy Wolf & Mike Robertson in his Discovery, Bob Telepak in his XJ, Justin Simenson & Rebecca "Becca" Tafoya in his Rubicon, Paul Caskey and friend in his YJ, Jeff & Lauri Rector in her YJ, Jordan Sousa in his TJ, and me in my Jeepster. Other guests were Kristin Konnick and her Father Paul in her KJ, and Mark Smith & friend Jim Bohlken in Mark's 02 WJ.

We started at our usual place in Rio Rancho and headed out at 9:00 AM. We stopped at the parking spot after the Gilman tunnels and aired our tires down. I wanted to run the Holiday/Stable Mesa area and headed to the turn-off across the Rio Guadalupe. We crossed the river and headed up the mountain to the mesa. I had promised Mary Turpin I would show her the Giant Foot Print Indian Ruins for her soon-to-be visitors from Canada during the balloon fiesta. So that became our first destination. While we were there, we had lunch and everyone got to look around. We then headed northwest to the Stable Mesa area where I wanted to show Bob Telepak the other ruins that Tom Hurt and I had visited some years earlier. I thought the road had been purposefully closed by someone cutting down trees, but others had created a trail around all the cut trees and we decided to follow it. We looked around those ruins a while and then headed for Schoolhouse Mesa to get back to FR 376. I only took two wrong turns the whole day and felt good about that. We finally got down off the Mesa and headed south along the river to cross again. Part way through we were momentarily detained by a tree that had to be cut and cleared from the trail so we could get through. There had been several that required clearing that day due to all the rain which loosened the soil and caused the tree to fall.

We didn't get back to the tunnels to air up until 6:00 PM, but it was a good day and now the track is recorded for future use. I wanted to share with you something that is starting to appear more and more. Bob Telepak had his GPS tied into a laptop computer, with an LCD screen to track this entire trail realtime. It plotted the trail on a topo map directly as we went along. That is using available technology to assist us with our sport in a very positive way. Thanks to all that attended. This trail will be submitted to the US Forest Service for their

ongoing Travel Management Plan as Bob's topo map indicated most of it was not on the map. All we did was follow existing forest service routes all day long. That should convince you of the importance of getting out and mapping trails.

### **Gilman Tunnels Closed**

by Frank G. Whiston

Members,

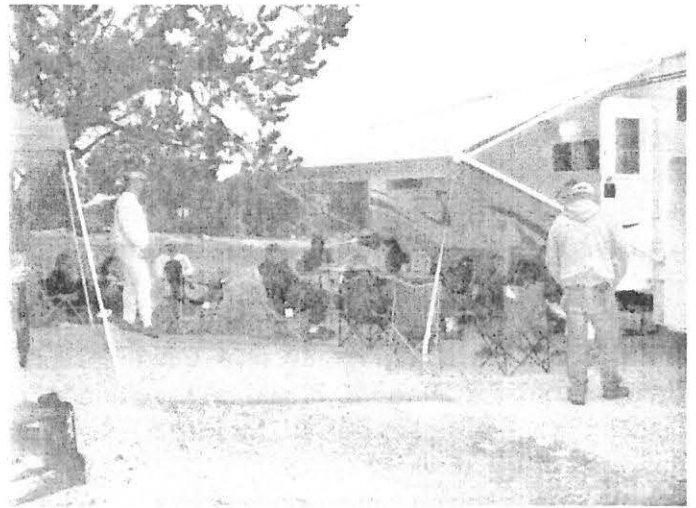
We went to the Jemez yesterday (23 Sep) to record some more GPS waypoints and discovered that FR 376 has been closed due to a rockslide in the vicinity of the tunnels. The road is closed right at the FS boundary on the south end, so FR 653 is not accessible to bypass the tunnels either. The closure sign stated that a .25 mile radius around the tunnels is off limits to foot traffic as well due to instability of the canyon walls. The area will remain closed for an indefinite time period. We ended up going around through Jemez Springs and accessing FR 376 from NM 126. Once we reached Porter, there was another sign stating that the road was closed 6 miles ahead. There was a trace of snow above 8,000 ft. Most of the aspen trees were still green. The next couple of weekends will probably be good for the fall colors.

### **Zuni Mountain Exploration Run Labor Day Weekend 2006**

by Frank G. Whiston



The Zuni Mountains is an area that has been a long time favorite of mine. Years ago, my dad and I, along with a whole list of others, would frequent the area to ride motorcycles. At least fifteen years passed by since we stopped going out to the Zuni's. I started thinking of going back to re-discover the area where so many memories had been made. Then, I decided to get it on the calendar and invite the club to join us to explore the area. I had originally planned the trip earlier in the summer, but the forest was closed due to the high fire danger. We finally did it this past Labor Day weekend and we all had a great time.



We had a very nice-sized group. Those who attended include Mark and Joan Wolf, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Paul and Mary Thompson, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Jerry and Mary Moran (Saturday), Chuck and Ethel May Peeples, and Rance and Elizabeth Cochrane (Guests). We also had Beth's parents Pat and John with us, so we brought both the Ranger and the Jeep along to have seats for everyone.

Saturday we hit the trail at 9 AM. The roughest trail that we would encounter is the road around Bluewater Lake. As we set out, Chuck made radio contact with us as to meet us on the other side of the lake where he and Ethel May have a cabin. After a short stretch of blacktop and meeting up with the Peeples, we took FR 178 to the old town site of Diener. In the 1930's, an open-pit copper mine was developed in this area. Very little of the old mill site remains. From Diener, we traveled along FR 504 and took an offshoot to the top of Mt.



Sedgwick. At an elevation of 9,256 feet, we enjoyed 360-degree views, as well as an interesting quartz formation. From there, we took FR 504 down to FR 480 and headed east. It was getting close to lunch time, so I began to look for a side road to get away from the well maintained FR 480. I found one, but ran into numerous hunting camps, so we proceeded along until we reached the top of the mesa for a lunch spot. As we ate lunch, I was queried by several people “where does this road go?” or “have you been here before?” I answered I am not sure and no, I have not been here before. After all, this is an “exploration run” (*i.e., a trail ride whereby the leader doesn't want to get fined as a result of making U-turns or otherwise getting lost!—ed.*) After lunch, we continued along and came across a few deer in the woods. The road continued to the south until it terminated into an east-west road at a closed gate. I opened the gate and made a left to head east until we came along another road that led off to the right heading south. Then we broke out into a meadow among the remains of a few cabins. Continuing on, the road finally came out along FR 50 near Cold Springs. Then we took FR 50 to FR 49 and drove around the Cinder Pit and old lava flows. After that, we went along the ridge towards Quartz Hill, and dropped into Bonita Canyon where there were brilliant patches of yellow flowers. Once we got back to FR 49, it was getting late and we decided that it would be much quicker to take it into Grants and take the highway back to camp. After all, it was pot-luck night! I think that is the main reason that Wolfie decided to join us.

Sunday we took the same route to meet up with the Peoples. We turned off of FR 178 and headed west this time and followed the trail which parallels Bluewater Creek all the way to the old town site of Sawyer. Sawyer was the main logging camp from 1909 to 1921. About 200 people, including 60 children, lived at Sawyer. There was a general store, a schoolhouse, a boarding house, homes, and Navajo Hogan's in Sawyer. Many of the buildings were hauled away when the main logging camp was moved to Bluewater Lake. From Sawyer, we took FR 50 to FR 482 and found a lunch spot at an old windmill and train car. After lunch, FR 482 lead us to the southern edge of the Zuni Mountains. We crossed the Continental Divide at the “Big Notch” for a view across the valley looking at El Morro National Monument. Then we took well-maintained roads back to Bluewater State park. We all gathered for Peanuts, Chips, Salsa, Guacamole, and Quiche that afternoon. We also shared a campfire each night. What a great trip spent with good friends. We WILL do it again for sure!



### Quote of the Month

by Mark Wolf

On the Zuni Mountain trip, I had shut off the Jeepster on the run and when I started it back up, it backfired. Now that is not all bad, except that a certain fellow was walking by and had just cleared the rear fender when the “shot” went off. It caused that fellow to dance a jig and instantly yell out “**Alright, I'll marry your daughter!**” Poor Chuck will never be the same. (The really bad part was that I laughed uncontrollably for six hours.)

### Four Wheeler of the Year

by Joan Wolf

Glenn Bontly was chosen by his peers as the 2006 Four Wheeler of the Year and was presented a plaque at the September 16 meeting. Glenn, a club member for seven years, was also named Four Wheeler of the Year in 2002.

Glenn has been Trail Tales editor and nm4w.org webmaster extraordinaire for many years. His report at the meetings is short and sweet “We have a

newsletter and a website.” He’s too modest to say that both are informative, fun, and great communication tools. The website is often the outside world’s introduction to NM4W and it makes a great first impression based on the number of people it draws to meetings.



Besides producing the newsletter and keeping the website current, Glenn attends almost every meeting and many runs. He’s always willing to share Jeep modification tips and four-wheeling techniques to new members.

Glenn has never met a Wal-Mart he doesn’t like, and someday might make good on his threat to set up camp at the Eubank Wal-Mart with awning extended, lawn chair, grill, etc. For some reason, it’s easy to visualize.

Congratulations, Glenn, and thanks for being a major cog with NM4W. Glenn’s name will be added to the list of past winners:

- 2005 Lauri and Jeff Rector
- 2004 Chuck Peeples
- 2003 Leon Duggar
- 2002 Glenn Bontly
- 2001 Pat Brady
- 2000 Mark Wolf
- 1999 Mark Wolf
- 1998 Bob Telepak
- 1997 Charlie Wilson
- 1996 Mark Werkmeister

## Tires

Revised and updated for the 2006 Auge’s 4x4 101  
by Lauri Rector

Which tires do you really need? This is such a good question that I have actually witnessed, on several occasions, grown, intelligent men having a 45 minute conversation on tires. Then they will take a break to talk about how long they have been talking about tires and then start the conversation back up again for another 30 minutes.

You should ask yourself a couple of questions when deciding which tire is going to be best for you most of the time. Number 1; what do you want to do when you take your rig off the pavement? Number 2; what kind of ride and noise level will you tolerate when you drive your rig on the pavement? You could have more questions (such as wear and lasting power) but these should be strong considerations. The more correct you are with the answers, the happier you should be with tires that you purchase.

If you mainly drive your rig on the street and don’t plan to do much more than take occasional trips down forest-service roads, then you should consider less aggressive, street-tread-style tires. Tires with less aggressive tread patterns wear longer and run quieter and smoother on pavement than an all-terrain or mud-terrain tire. However, an all-terrain tire with a more aggressive tread will give you more traction on the trail while still maintaining a fairly good ride and noise level on pavement. A mud-terrain tread will more often be a rougher ride and louder on pavement than an all-terrain tread – and will be progressively worse the more aggressive the tread pattern becomes. The more tread on the pavement, the better the tire wear and the longer they will last. Also, the tire compound will affect the tire wear and how long the tire will last.

The question for dedicated trail use of your rig is traction and whether you need the traction performance in mud, sand, snow, or on the rocks; or a combination thereof. Your priority for ride quality and road noise is pretty low. Also, tread life may not be as important to you as sidewall-puncture resistance. For a daily driver and wheeling in soft sand or soil, or slickrock, an all-terrain could be

your best choice. The wider tread will give you added floatation in the loose stuff and the added rubber you'll have on the ground will give you top-notch traction on sandstone and granite slabs. Finally, all-terrain tires are generally better for packed snow and ice than mud-terrain tires. This is because the large-tread blocks of a mud tire tend to hydroplane on the icy stuff because the higher ground pressure of their overall footprint causes the ice to melt under the tire; and the general lack of siping on mud-terrain tread sections means there's no place for the resultant water to go. However, in deep snow, all-terrain tires will pack up just as they do in mud. Mud tires, on the other hand, are great in deep mud and unpacked snow, as with a bit of wheel speed, the tread will clean itself out quickly. In addition, mud tires have proven themselves superior in jagged rocks, where their aggressive tread can find something to grab onto. A good soft-compound mud-terrain tire also will work very well on sandstone and granite slabs, but hard-tread compounds can cause a mud tire to slip on rock almost like it was on ice.

There is also the specialty ice-and-snow tire. These tires use special construction and tread compounds that dissipate the water layer between the tire and the ice. This vastly improves the handling and stopping ability of these tires in frozen lands. These tires are very soft and flexible, with lots of siping, so that water is forced out of the tread quickly to aid in traction. Special ice-and-snow tires are recommended for seasonal use only, as they tend wear quickly.

There has been a trend among four-wheelers to have two sets of tires, one for street and one for trail. These are the folks who want the best tires for the conditions.

### Caballo Lake Run by Wolfie

Members/guests: The Caballo area trail run this year is scheduled for 7 – 8 Oct. It is usually a moderate-hard trail. However, with all of the rains this year and the fact that the trail goes through more than one canyon bottom (ie...river bed), you can expect the trail to be on the hard side for sure.

Therefore, I WOULD NOT recommend stock vehicles or vehicles without a limited slip or locker on this run this year. If you have questions or concerns, please let me know and I will answer them directly.

We will meet at our usual place, the Caballo Lake River Campground (that's the River Campground, **NOT** the Lake Campground). You can get there by taking exit 59 from I-25 about 12 miles south of Truth or Consequences. Make sure to fill up in T or C, as there are no fuel stations close to the campground. We will leave the campground on Saturday morning at 8:00 AM promptly – RAIN or SHINE!! That way we can get back to the campground to have a cookout. If there is enough interest, we can potluck it. Thanks! I await your response.

Wolfie



- **Genuine stock Jeep aluminum wheels from a 92 YJ:** Very good condition. Set of five. \$200. Would make a nice Christmas present. Call Dan Pritchard at 505-293-5297.
- **Jeep TJ Drivetrain Stuff:** Model 231 transfer case, 50K miles, stock, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$400 obo. Dana 35 rear end, complete drum-to-drum, 50K miles, stock with 3.07 gears, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$400 obo. Dana 30 differential housing, yoke-to-yoke, 50K miles, stock with 3.07 gears, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$125. Four inch Lift kit for TJ Wrangler: includes Springs, Control arms, shocks, and whatever else we can find. Springs are excellent, Control arms and shocks are ugly but serviceable, \$300. Warn Engine Skid Plate for TJ Wrangler, fits short arm suspensions, new in 891-0296.

**For more Classified Ads,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.nm4w.org/wanted-for\\_sale.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/wanted-for_sale.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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of Trail Tales is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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, 11404 Oceola Rd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

## NM4W Officers

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<b>Trip Chairman</b> Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 <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!

## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Sep 29 – Oct 1	Red River Trip	Call Tom Hurt	505-994-2515
Oct 6 – 7	Caballo Lake Trip	Call Mark Wolf	505-856-8539
Oct 12	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-6547
Nov 9	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-6547

Trail Tales  
 11404 Oceola Rd SE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87123





# Trail Tales



November 1, 2006 The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers [www.nm4w.org](http://www.nm4w.org)

## Meeting Minutes

From October 12, 2006  
by Beth Whiston



Meeting was held at Heights Cumberland Church. Mark Wolf called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM (cuz Lauri left her wedding rings at the office and had to go retrieved them before the janitor did).

**Guests:** Joanne Spivack (President NMOHVA), Lloyd Swartz, Bill Black, Sheree Barnes.

**Members Present:** Glenn Bontly, Pat & Sue Brady, Keith Chapin, Leon Duggar, Erwin Greven, Heath Hislop, Tom Hurt, Jason Lavy, Cliff Meier, Jerry & Mary Moran, Chuck & Ethel May Peeples, Dan Pritchard, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Justin Simenson, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Paul & Mary Thompson, Mark Werkmeister, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark Wolf.

**Secretary's Report – Beth Whiston:** Everybody accepted the minutes as printed in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** \$4,983.39 is the bank balance. A \$722.00 check was written to Southwest for dues. Outstanding fines: Peeples .50 (for not waving to the Tanners), Frank G. .25 (for leaving the Tanner's behind).

**Vice President's Report – Mark Wolf:** Mark heard of an infraction, somebody was impersonating the Sheriff! Laurye Tanner received a .25 fine for the impersonation. Glenn Bontly, at Caballo Lake, .25 fine for his temporary inability to locate his oil dipstick (it was under the welder, said Glenn!).

**Trip Chairman's Report – Frank Whiston:** Gordy's Hill (Reported by Mark Werkmeister) – Went off as scheduled, 3 vehicle's in small tire group; 4 vehicles in large tire group. Water damage was minimal. They had to do some restacking on Pucker Falls. It was hard to see the newer routes because of grass and brush growth. Nice campfire, good weekend, little rain in the evenings.

Red River (Reported by Tom Hurt) – No club members on Saturday. There were some people from Kansas. Goose Lake is different, there are no more boulders. They were all removed. ☹ Tom GPS'd Mission Impossible.

Fall Quarterly (Reported by Paul Thompson) – It was held at the YO Ranch, good time, very well run event. It was a different terrain. First evening they signed up in a group and stayed with that group for two days. It was nice because they got to feel like a part of the group and got to know everybody. Thompson's went to the meeting. Only 7 clubs were represented so it was not an official meeting (8 clubs are required to make it an official meeting). It was announced that Las Cruces is hosting the Winter Quarterly again. Nobody has stepped up for Summer Quarterly. Mary said that we need to have more members go to the "eastern" quarterlies next time! There was a swimming pool, an opportunity to pet, hunt, and feed a camel. There are pictures on the website.

*(The way I remember it, Brady asked if he could shoot the camel; Mary said NO! -ed)*

Caballo Run (Reported by Mark Wolf) – There were 4 vehicles on the run. It was a good run. The trail changed a little in the bottom, there was some sand. They had rain on Saturday afternoon. Good that they crossed the river and saved a lot of time (the crossing that Glenn found last year). Palomas



Gap was a little tricky...it took time to get everybody through.

Jemez (Reported by Frank G.) – GPS'd some trails up in the Jemez. Corey Ryan, Frank and Donna Whiston, Frank G. & Kimberly went and explored a route off of Bales Canyon. This route took them within a few hundred yards of the top of the Church Canyon trail, but the dense forest is prohibitive to complete the route. However, following the ridge to the south, it would probably only take a work party a couple of hours to link the trail back into Bales Canyon. After re-tracing their steps, they continued on to log tracks on a route that skirts the western edge of the Girl Scout camp to link into Trail Creek. Then they traveled FR20 back out to Highway 550 to return to town.

#### Future Runs:

Lauri Rector has a run on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> McMillan and Church Canyon. Meet at the Conoco 550/528 at 9:00.

Glenn Bontly is leading Tank Trap on Sat, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. Meet at the Conoco at 8 am. Note earlier time.

The Club needs to think about the Christmas Tree run. *(As of this publication, Justin Simenson has volunteered to lead this trip on 2 Dec. –ed)*

#### **Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister:**

RS2477: Rep. Pearce (NM) has introduced the RS2477 legislation. It is a short bill that is very important. We would like to let Pearce know how we feel about this bill. Mark Werkmeister would like everybody who feels compelled to do so, sign a petition to support this bill. A petition was passed around. Mark will collect the petition at the end of the meeting and give it to the BlueRibbon coalition. Mark will send out contact information on Monday.

Santa Fe National Forest Travel Mgmt Plan: SFNF Travel Management plan has been extended to January 15<sup>th</sup>. Pat Brady is point of contact for collecting these tracks. Please get a copy of any tracks to Pat Brady. We need to also remember to ID some routes that have never been opened or had trails on them. There are many opportunities. Use

our time wisely. Once it starts to snow it will be more difficult. It can't hurt to thank the SFNF for extending the deadline.

Mark Wolf pointed out that members can receive points by going to these meetings.

Trackways Bill: Fred Huff flew to D.C. The last of the oral and written testimony has been submitted on the Trackways Monument bill. This legislation will get taken up again when Congress reconvenes in January.

Dona Land Use Bill: There will be two public input meetings that the City of Las Cruces has advertised. Any attendance would be greatly appreciated, but Mark realizes it is a long drive. Mark has already submitted his input from the point of view as SWFWDA representative.

**Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx:** Not present.

**Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner:** She received pictures from Paul and Mary; already posted online.

Mark Wolf volunteered to head a committee to celebrate the Clubs 50<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary! He will be looking for help.

**Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** He has something! Anybody interested in Tank Trap next month? Do we have a date and location for a holiday party?

#### **Old Business:**

Community Service Project: Beth Whiston suggested/presented an idea about the APS Title I Homeless Project. This foundation helps out the 300-400 homeless students registered with Albuquerque Public Schools (APS). Most of these kids live along Central Ave, between downtown and Louisiana Blvd. The program really helps these children out. Money that is donated to the homeless project goes into a foundation. It is different from the everyday money that APS operates on.

Things the money is used for: Clothes for H.S. students. Many of the H.S. students are living on their own! They need food and clothes (an APS employee with the homeless project will take students shopping for clothes). Provide money for cap and gown so seniors can participate in graduation. Provide financial help for the students who wish to participate in sports. Money for a uniform or the fee to play. Underwear and socks for all students. They run a preschool and after school tutoring program during the school year and summer for the 300-400 homeless children registered in APS. Non-perishable food/snacks that will be sent with the children at the end of the week to provide food during the weekend. Toiletry items for the students. School supplies. Just a huge variety of things as the need arises.

Christmas Party: Last year's hosts volunteered to do it again! Thank you Phil & Ilene Rodacy! That is so kind of you. The Christmas party will be Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> starting at 5 PM.

Donation for Church: Paul Thompson said that we are way overdue for giving a donation to the church. He suggested \$300.00, all were in favor.

Finances: We owe SW Land Action Fund \$70.00; do we want to increase that amount? There was a discussion. It was decided to give \$500.00 to Southwest Land Action Fund and \$500.00 to United. All were in favor.

#### **New Business:**

Mark Werkmeister suggested another NM4W Rockin' New Years at Gordy's Hill. He would like to get the clubs support in inviting members from other clubs. Everybody agreed and thought it was a great idea. Mark will place it on the calendar.

Lloyd Swartz let everybody know that the Cibola National Forest is having a meeting on Nov 12 about travel management. He believes there will be 6-8 meetings over the months. Please let him know if you have any trails that you think he needs to know about.

Mark Wolf has a points sheet. Check it to make sure everything is correct.

Wolfie asked Sue to stand up and everybody gave her a big round of applause for always making sure we have a meeting room for our winter meetings! Thanks Sue!

Leon thanked everybody for all the help with the baby girls. He had hoped to have the raffle tickets for Chile Challenge. He will have tickets at the next meeting. Feb, 21 - 24 is the Chile Challenge. Buy some tickets next meeting!

Thank you to Paul and Mary for hosting the meeting. It was such a nice set-up with a Halloween theme!

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

*Next Month's Hosts: Mark & Joan Wolf*



### **President's Report**

By Lauri Rector

Another month and another blurb from your friendly president – Woo! Hoo! So many things come to mind through the month; and right now... not so many.

Let's see...The Holidays are right around the corner. This can be a very busy time for us all. And the Santa Fe Forest has tentative dates for November for the next set of meetings. Again they will be held in each district, so there are many meetings for us to try to attend. Yet, then again we can think of it as many opportunities to earn points to get the Desert Rat gift certificate next summer. As I write this, the first Cibola meeting will be tomorrow night (26 Oct). Keep checking the web sites and see if there is anything that you can do to help.

There have been a couple of changes since the last meeting and more details will be provided at the next meeting. One is that Bob Telepak has agreed to volunteer for a "liaison" team to represent the 4-wheelers interest in the Cibola National Forests, and I volunteered to assist him. And another is that the Governor of Utah has repealed the Bush ruling on

the Roadless Act (actually, I should have reread the emails before I wrote anything on these topics – so, I do apologize if I'm off some). I took both of these as really good things – maybe small – but anything positive on keeping trails open is really good at this point.

Back to the Holidays.... I would like to give out a huge THANK YOU to Phil and Ilene for volunteering their home again for the Christmas party!!!! Such a brave couple!!! Also a big THANKS to Justin, we just read his email saying that he was volunteering to lead the Christmas Tree run. If you need a tree – don't miss this run!!!! I need to remember to mention the gift exchange at the meeting and I would appreciate it if someone could organize it this year.

That's all for now – more blurbs to be in next month's news letter.

### **Caballo Mountain/Palomas Gap Run**

by Mark Wolf

(photos by Joe Wilson)

Friday evening, October 6<sup>th</sup> saw some only two vehicles arrive for the assault on the Caballo Mountain trail near Truth or Consequences. Joan and I arrived about 4:30 PM and found that the restrooms at the front of the park were closed (bad decision on the park's part!) and that's why so many unused spaces were located at that location in the park. Before we could get into a space, Glenn and Jan pulled in. We chatted about the limited space and decided we would park in one of those shared spaces, only away from each other by one space. That was all that was left! The place was full!

The weather wasn't too bad that night (a little rain overnight) and it was actually a beautiful morning. Jerry & Mary Moran had sent me an e-mail earlier in the week and asked how long it would take to get there. I told them two hours, but arriving after a two-and-one-half hour drive, I realized I had misled them. Joe Wilson also said he would be either going on Friday evening or Saturday morning. Not long after we got up and started getting things ready did Joe and his daughter Chelsea arrived up in his

TJ with a new long arm kit installed and ready to go! Joe had been here before and knew how much time he needed to get there on time. We finally pulled up to the entrance of the campground and waited for Jerry & Mary to come along. They got there a little before 9:00 and we immediately headed out for the other side of the dam to air down the tires.

We headed out in a westerly direction and then turned south to get to the road that leads around to the other side of the dam. It took us about 30 minutes to meander through fields of bright red chile peppers, onions, and cotton to reach the other side. Once there, we all stopped and aired down our tires for the day ahead. Glenn would take the rear and be our "Tail End Charlie" this trip.



We got to the trailhead without a mishap or getting lost. Once we turned on to the easterly roadway, you could tell the wash had run significantly during the rainy summer season, but the ranchers had graded it nicely and it was almost smooth! We headed off to the east to get to the trail head, which is about 3 miles from the dam. Once we reached it, we all turned left and headed to the northeast, following along the trail. The trail meanders through the desert until it finally dumps into a wash and continues to the northeast. This wash was deeper than in the past and the roadway was a little hard to identify. But, thanks to Glenn's new, fancy GPS unit, we knew the trail was farther east than I thought. Once you reach the spot where it turns out of the wash, there's an immediate washed out part of the trail that causes some air under the tires and



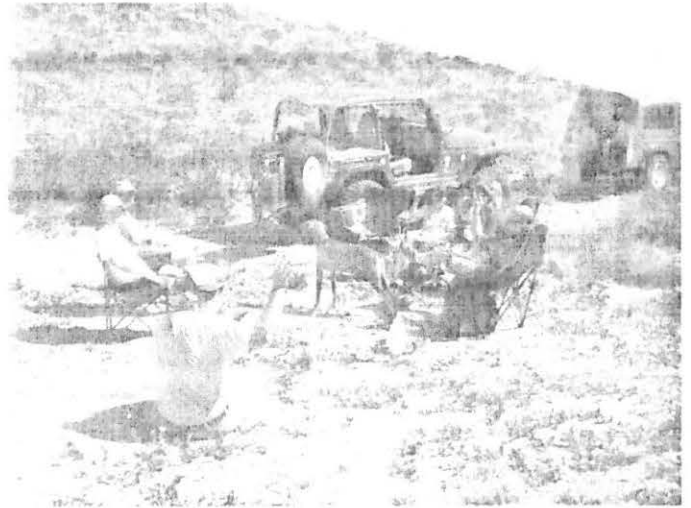
heavy leaning to the right side. You can't roll over here as the bank is too tall on the bottom side preventing you from having a bad day. I could tell no one had been up this trail since the rains, as there were no tracks whatsoever.



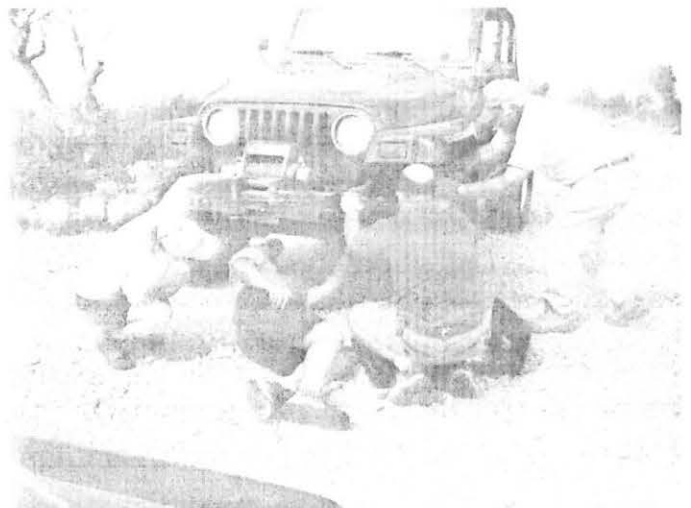
We shortly reached the canyon bottom and started the drive up. Glenn tried and conquered the difficult option and he was very proud of himself. That is the first time he has tried a difficult option and went through it without a scratch or bent a something-or-other! We continued the trail along the canyon bottom. I noticed, and especially Jerry noticed, that the rocks were well exposed as the sand had been washed away from them. However, the first real hard spot was more difficult with the rocks preceding it than the actual hard spot. We finally had to tug Jerry a little here as the big rocks got to his Rubicon Unlimited's low-hanging skid plate. But, he was actually starting to have some fun and was glad he made it. There were several places in the wash that had large rocks exposed and a couple of them caused us to tug and jack Jerry's LJ up to retract it from the rock gods. It appeared at one time, just before you go up out of the wash, that he had crunched his fender flare, but it was plastic and automatically reshaped itself when it got loose from the rock.

We stopped at the first right turn again for lunch. It seems that I always make it this far for lunch. It was about 12:30 when we stopped. After a brief half hour, we got going again. The sun was pretty warm now, but not too hot. It was a long, bumpy ride to the top of the hill. That roadway was not

graded this time and there were quite a few washouts. But, everyone made it just fine. We did have to stop and wait for Glenn a couple of times as he was letting Jan drive (a big mistake, now she wants to drive all the time!).



When we got to the towers, there was only a slight breeze and lots of sunshine. We all looked around for a few minutes, helped Glenn tighten his track bar, and then got back in the Jeeps and headed towards Palomas Gap. We turned off the main road and headed into the cow pasture, making sure to close each gate that had been closed. Once we got to the cattle pond, we had to navigate around several cow pies. I called out over the radio how fun it was to run through an obstacle course of cow pies and was immediately awarded with a response from the young lady in Joe's Jeep (see Quote of the Month in this issue). It made me laugh, as I am a farm boy at heart!



The trail was washed out in a couple of spots and once I fell into a ravine on my side! I hate that! Joan had only a couple of things to say (no swearing), but we made it out okay and got going again before the rest could catch us. Well, almost anyway. I guess Joe was forced to wait a few seconds. Sorry for the delay! We went along fine after that and finally got into the wash again. It was getting to be about 3:30 PM and the clouds were in the west. We crept through the wash, trying to straddle, drive on, or miss the boulders that had been washed out into the open. Finally, Glenn called out that he was stuck. Before I could get to him, he was unstuck. Jerry once again had to manipulate the rocks with finesse as his 245 tires were the smallest of the group and they kept getting him stuck. It came up a lightning storm and then the rain started while we were in the wash. I hate lightning, but kept going to get out of the wash as quickly as possible. All of a sudden, Joe called out he was stuck! I thought, how could a guy with 35's and a long arm kit get stuck when my Jeepster with only 33's was going along fine? Seems he and his daughter were looking for frogs or turtles, and he failed to pay attention! He paid for it though, as he had to strap his long arm up so that it wouldn't droop, and then jack up the vehicle to pile rocks underneath the tire while it was raining! Jerry watched this and made sure he took the right line. About a half-hour later we were at the entrance to Palomas Gap. This "Gap" is an early stagecoach and trading route between the Rio Grande River and to the east. It was nearly 4:30 PM and time to get off this mountain. We continued to the canyon overlook and got out to look at the steep walls and the waterfalls that had run during the rainy season. It is here that we actually ran into some guys that were camping there and some that were on an ATV of sorts looking around for the day. We continued along and eventually got down off the mountain. Glenn told us to listen carefully as he would let us know when the turn to cross the river was near. It was along the river bottom that this appeared. The pathway along the river bottom had been hard hit by the rains and vast parts had been washed away. It was at one of these washouts that the turn came upon us. Glenn told us to wait and he went to explore the river conditions and the turn. We had looked at the river from various vantage points along the way was not sure we would be able to

cross it anywhere. Caballo Reservoir was full for the first time in a long time and the river was still running pretty well.

Glenn took only a few minutes to call us and tell us it was easy to cross and was the right way to go. I followed his tracks easily and crossed the river and the others followed. Once we got to the other side we hit mud as it had rained harder on this side of the river than the side we had come from. There was this gate right in the middle of a large mud puddle. Jan got out to open it without getting wet, but Mary would have to close it! She cheated (or Jerry felt sorry for her) and Jerry helped her close it. Neither got very wet though. We were soon on the road and stopped to air up our tires. Glenn tore a valve stem somewhere along the trail, and was slowly leaking air, so he put on the spare. I also had a valve stem problem. I had hit one of my chrome steel valve stems with a rock and sheared off the top part of it. Only there was enough of it left that the air was not leaking out. So I aired up the other three tires and decided to drive it as is. Glenn, Jan, Joan and I all made a left turn to head back to the campground while Jerry, Mary, Chelsea and Joe turned right and headed back to Truth of Consequences and eventually home. It was fun day and everyone had a good time.



It was funny when Mary said that my vehicle was so old, but yet had no trouble. Jerry told her it doesn't matter how old it is, just what kind of equipment it has. She was convinced after this trail (a type that Jerry had been wanting to go on since he joined this club) that Jerry definitely needs a lift

kit and larger tires. I guess we can all guess what Jerry will be getting for Christmas! Joe on the other hand was glad that he had spent the money on the long arm kit as it worked great and he had a great time as well. My locker never worked the whole time, but I never needed it anyway. Glenn had a great time also as he got to try something hard and made it through unscathed. Everyone was happy! Now that's a great run! Hope to see you there next year!



**From the Office of the  
Director of Environmental Affairs**  
by Mark Werkmeister

Hello everyone! There is A LOT going on in the land use arena right now. This month, I am going to focus on two of them.

The first is the RS2477 legislation that was introduced by Steve Pearce in the waning days of the past congressional session. As I have said in previous messages, there is going to be a ton of greenie spin and backlash in the media, so it is important that we understand what is really being proposed and why. If you have the time and inclination, I highly recommend the RS2477 website sponsored by the Utah Association of Counties ([www.rs2477roads.com](http://www.rs2477roads.com)). There is far more in-depth explanation and analysis there than most people probably want (or need), but there is also several shorter items that do a really good job of debunking some of the greenie myths that will be thrown around with abandon over the coming

months. Be aware that this particular site was created in the late 1990's when there was other, but similar, legislation being proposed. Some of the material is outdated, but none of the base concepts involving RS2477 have changed.

Here is how to get to the 'must-read' pieces of the website. Go to the link above and then click on the link that talks about the index. When you arrive at the index page, click on the link that says

**"IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN...  
A QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE 2477 ISSUE"**

That will take you to three short links that give an excellent and concise background on RS2477. This issue will be re-introduced when Congress comes back in January, and we must be ready to support this effort.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> item is the Travel Management Process that is taking place on ALL FIVE National Forests in New Mexico (and every other forest in the entire country.)! So far, our club has been focused primarily on the Santa Fe National Forest with excellent attendance at the kick-off meetings. The next step in the travel management planning process is a series of Travel Analysis workshops. The first four meetings are in Santa Fe on 14 Nov, Espanola on 15 Nov, Los Alamos on 16 Nov, and Cuba on 18 Nov (all dates tentative). I will send out further details as soon as I have, and I encourage any and all of you to try to attend. This is a long-term effort, but it is important that our enthusiasm doesn't flag during the process.

The Cibola National Forest is also getting ready to kickoff their Travel Management Planning process. They are using a different approach in that they have contracted a professional 'collaboration' company to pilot the effort in the Sandia Ranger District. Bob Telepak is the official invitee representing 4WD and our club, but THESE ARE PUBLIC MEETINGS and everyone is invited to attend whether you have received invitations from the Forest Service or not. This first meeting is 26 Oct from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Hilton on University Blvd. There will be others!

Mark, Your DEA.....



## Santa Fe Nation Forest Meetings: The Second Round!

by Mark Werkmeister

Members:

We received the following information from Rob Potts, Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) Planner today. This information is tentative, but gives an early indication of what/when they are planning. I will continue to update you as the schedule firms up.

Mark

Wanted to give you a heads up on Travel Analysis Workshops.

As you'll probably recall, we are planning three rounds:

Round 1: ID User Need, November-December 2006 (10 meetings)

Round 2: Travel Analysis, January-February 2007 (approximately 5 meetings)

Round 3: Develop Proposed Action, March-April 2007 (approximately 5 meetings)

Have tentatively scheduled Round 1 Workshops as follows:

11/14	Santa Fe
11/15	Espanola
11/16	Los Alamos
11/18	Cuba
11/21	Pecos

Dates for workshops in Las Vegas, Mora, ABQ, Jemez and Coyote TBD - probably the weeks of December 4 and 11. Additional details to follow soon. Communication package is almost ready to go - will include press release, flyers, mailings, and web site. When logistics are finalized would appreciate your help in spreading the word.

## Quote of the Month

by Joan Wolf

While leading the Caballo run, Wolfie had just negotiated a cow pasture and told the group, "That there was an obstacle course of cowpies." Chelsea Wilson, age 12, exclaimed over the CB "I didn't need to know that!"



For Sale



- **Genuine stock Jeep aluminum wheels from a 92 YJ:** Very good condition. Set of five. \$200. Would make a nice Christmas present. Call Dan Pritchard at 505-293-5297.
- **Tires & Stuff:** Four Goodyear MT/R's, 40x13.50x17, never mounted, \$1,200. Large output shaft (32 spline) for Dana 300 from Advance Adapters, never installed, \$300. Call Kevin Cutler at 281-479-8689.
- **Jeep TJ Drivetrain Stuff:** Model 231 transfer case, 50K miles, stock, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$400 obo. Dana 35 rear end, complete drum-to-drum, 50K miles, stock with 3.07 gears, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$400 obo. Dana 30 differential housing, yoke-to-yoke, 50K miles, stock with 3.07 gears, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$125. Four inch Lift kit for TJ Wrangler: includes Springs, Control arms, shocks, and whatever else we can find. Springs are excellent, Control arms and shocks are ugly but serviceable, \$300. Warn Engine Skid Plate for TJ Wrangler, fits short arm suspensions, new in 891-0296.
- **Dana 30 Front Axle for TJ:** Complete, 4.56 gears, ARB Air Locker. Opened up and all components checked and OK. Asking \$1,000.00. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.

For more Classified Ads,  
please visit our web site at  
[www.nm4w.org/wanted-for\\_sale.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/wanted-for_sale.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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of Trail Tales is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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, 11404 Ocoala Rd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

## NM4W Officers

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<b>Treasurer</b> Paul Thompson 293-8390 <a href="mailto:treasurer@nm4w.org">treasurer@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Jerry Marx 922-9370 <a href="mailto:program-chairman@nm4w.org">program-chairman@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Laurye Tanner 281-0994 <a href="mailto:historian@nm4w.org">historian@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Trip Chairman</b> Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 <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!

## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Nov 9	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-6547
Nov 11	Tank Trap Trail	Call Glenn Bontly	505-249-1127
Nov 24 – 27	Florence Junction, AZ Trip	Call Mike & Kristy Coe	505-896-1658
Dec 2	Christmas Tree Run	Call Justin Simenson	505-299-6982
Dec 9	Holiday Party	Call Phil & Ilene Rodacy	505-710-4928

Trail Tales  
 11404 Oceola Rd SE  
 Albuquerque, NM 87123

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# Trail Tales



December 1, 2006

The Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From November 9, 2006

by Beth Whiston



Meeting was held at Heights Cumberland Church. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 7:00 sharp.

**Guests:** Sheree Barnes, Dennis Wong.

**Members Present:** Mark & Maria Berglund, Glenn Bontly, Pat & Sue Brady, Keith Chapin, Rance Cochrane, Mike & Kristy Coe, Leon & Marcia Duggar, Arne Gjerning, Erwin Greven, Heath Hislop, Tom Hurt, Jason Lavy, Cliff Meier, Don Miller, Bob Norton, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Mike Robertson & Kathy Wolf, Justin Simenson, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Bob Telepak, Mary Turpin, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

**Secretary's Report – Beth Whiston:** In the October minutes it was reported that the NM4W's gave \$500.00 to Southwest Land Action Fund. Wolfie pointed out during the November meeting that the NM4W's *also* donated \$170.00 to the Fund. The \$170.00 was collected at the Summer Quarterly by donations made with the entry fee. To make it clear, the NM4W's actually donated \$670.00 to the Southwest Land Action Fund. Everybody accepted the minutes as printed in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson:** \$3,484.04 - bank balance. No outstanding bills. Tom Hurt deposited \$81.00 from the aluminum cans.

**Vice President's Report – Mark Wolf:** Mark displayed a visitor's and member's point list up on the chalkboard. Everybody needs to check it and make sure it is correct! The point system was

explained. A person needs to earn five points to become a member. That way, they can see if they like the club before having to shell out money for dues. Points can be earned by attending meetings and participating in club runs.

**Members:** If you lead a run, please e-mail Wolfie to let him know who was on the run so they can get their points!

There are no fines at this time.

## Trip Chairman's Report – Frank Whiston:

- October 14 - Lauri Rector led a trip up to the Jemez (McMillan and Church canyon). The group went up through Jemez Springs, stopped at the Wallatowa Visitor Center to see if the Tunnels were still closed (yes, they are). Church Canyon was not found, Lauri thinks she knows where it starts. It was the matter of taking a right turn instead of a left. She needs to go back out, maybe after Thanksgiving. By the time they got done it was 3:00 and there were clouds, so they left.
- November 4 - Glenn Bontly took a group of 9 vehicles for a night ride to Cedro Peak. There was a full moon, it was easy to see. The group went up to the peak and looked at the city lights.
- November 10 – Mark Wolf is going to the Jemez to GPS some trails. Anybody is welcome to join him (There was much squabble about this trip because it's taking place on a "work day").
- November 11 - Glenn will lead a group on Tank Trap. If interested, meet at 8:00 at the

Conoco. It should take about 4 hours to run the trail.

- Thanksgiving Trip - Mike and Kristy Coe will be leading a 4-wheeling trip to AZ. They will be traveling to the Florence Junction area. Mike will be heading there the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The Rectors and Kristy will come Thanksgiving Day. All levels of trails exist in the area and are included in both the Charles Wells book, "Arizona Backroads and 4-Wheel Drive Trails" and the Massey/Wilson book, "Backcountry Adventures, Arizona". Trails will depart from the Arizonian Travel Trailer Resort at 9 AM each day. Mike made reservations at an RV park, there should still be room. If Jeff Rector has his Jeep, they may do some extreme trails. They will also do some moderate to hard trails with quite a few bypasses. If you do come out, you will need a Land Use permit at \$20.00 per family. E-mail Mike for details. There will be something for everybody.
- December 2 – Justin Simenson will lead the annual Christmas tree run. Let him know if you will be going. He plans on meeting at the Conoco (528/550) at 9 AM.
- December 9 - Holiday Party, 5:00 at Phil & Ilene Rodacy's house. Go to the member's only page for directions to their home, or e-mail Glenn at [webmaster@nm4w.org](mailto:webmaster@nm4w.org).
- December 30 - January 1 – The second annual NM4W Rockin' New Years at Gordy's Hill! Some people will be there Friday (December 29). The trails will be based on who shows up and what they are capable of doing. The trails vary in terms of difficulty. There will be a Pot Luck on Sunday night (New Years Eve). The group will try to stay up later this year. When Kristy and Mike celebrate by themselves . . . well, bad things happen. Mark will invite the Las Cruces club verbally. We'll see who shows!

- February 21-24 – Chile Challenge in Las Cruces. Frank G. has not seen anything about registration yet. It usually appears the around the first of December.

**Director of Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister:** The change in control of the House and Senate makes it much more unlikely that a Pearce RS2477 bill will be considered (or even get out of committee). Interestingly enough, a very anti-access bill to sunset RS2477 rights was introduced this past year. In the Republican-controlled house, it did not even make it out of committee. We may very well see more of this in the coming year and it will take a lot of effort to keep bad access legislation at bay. We will keep a close eye on it and continue to update the club.

The main focus right now should be the Travel Management Rule implementation in the various New Mexico National Forests. The Santa Fe National Forest is holding their first travel analysis workshops starting this next week (schedules are posted on the club web site). Please try to attend any or all meetings that you can. This is the precursor meetings for selecting which routes will stay open under the Rule. We will also be starting to prepare our own Citizen's Alternative, which the Forest Service will have to consider among the alternatives.

The Cibola National Forest is also starting the Travel Management Rule process with a 'collaborative approach' pilot in the Sandia Ranger District. The club has several official representatives, but the public is free to attend and participate, so plan on attending those meetings also.

The changes in Congress make a bad Dona Ana Land Use bill or a Trackways National Monument bill much more likely. We will keep you posted and alert you should action on our part be necessary or beneficial.

**Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx:** Not present, but Jeff Rector is selling tickets. He needs Jeep parts, so buy some tickets!

**Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner:** Did not get any pictures this last month. Laurye was disappointed because she could not take pictures of people necking on the hills during the night run. Aw, shucks.

**Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Nothing to report this month.

**Old Business:**

- Community service project - we have one suggestion; the APS Title I Homeless Project. The club will not take a vote on it until our Program Chairman is at a meeting. Lauri pointed out that it does not necessarily have to be a Christmas/Holiday community service.

**New Business:**

- Holiday Party - If you like, bring a gift **UNWRAPPED** and **NEW** to the Holiday party to donate to Toys for Tots. Lauri Rector asked for somebody else to organize the gift exchange for the Holiday party. All the person would have to do is bring in numbers for drawing, and then call the numbers out. Sounds pretty simple! Laurye Tanner volunteered to organize the gift exchange! Keep the cost of the gift under \$10.00. If you choose to participate, guys bring a wrapped gift marked for a guy, and gals bring a wrapped gift marked for a gal.
- Sue Brady has submitted a schedule to a new person here at the church who schedules the rooms. She did it for the whole year. She will let us know as soon as she hears something.
- Rance and Elizabeth Cochrane have enough points to be voted in as members. All in favor! Welcome to the club!
- Laurye Tanner moved that the Club provide meat for the Holiday party. A ham and/or turkey. The club used to do this in previous years. The group thought it was best to buy something precooked. There was a discussion about a dollar amount...\$100.00

or less? Sue Brady has volunteered to look into where this meat can be purchased. There was a motion to vote and all were in favor of \$100.00 to buy meat for the Holiday Party.

- Leon had news about the raffle tickets for the Chile Challenge – he did not anticipate that the printer would lose our order! It has been a long drawn out ordeal. He will have tickets next week. If you have to have them before the Christmas Party, please call him and he will make arrangements to get them to you.

Thank you to the Wolf's for hosting the meeting tonight. There were lots of goodies!!

Meeting adjourned at 7:44.

**Winner of the 50/50 drawing:** The cheesecake guy (Heath Hislop)!!! AGAIN!! \$50.00. \$51.00 went to the club.

**Next months Hosts:** The Rodacy's House for the Holiday party! See you there!

**January Hosts:** Jerry & Barbara Marx

**Member Spotlight:**  
**Paul Caskey**  
by Joan Wolf

Paul has owned his '95 Jeep Wrangler for four years, but didn't know where to go four-wheeling in New Mexico. As he searched the web, he was drawn to the no-nonsense attitude and membership screening process of the New Mexico Four Wheelers. His first NM4W outing was the 2006 Memorial Day weekend trip to the Jemez.

The first day's run was up/over the Gilman hills (the trail just before the tunnels). Paul had been off-highway with his Jeep, but never rock crawling. At the trailhead, he dutifully disconnected the sway bar and aired down. "My jaw dropped at the first hard spot because I didn't think I could do it," Paul remembers. But with spotting by club members, he

got through the obstacles just fine. A flat tire later in the day was no deterrent. He liked the NM4W group and had so much fun, he stayed for three nights.



Paul has always loved cars and driving. In high school, he had a '69 Mustang and later a '91 Mustang GT—and did some race driving with each. About ten years ago, he decided to try four-wheeling. He bought a new '95 Jeep Wrangler S (but not the one he currently drives) and practically drove from the dealers lot to Imogene Pass. Paul correlates race driving to four wheeling. “Tires are everything; you must find the right line and watch speed and braking. The difference is whether you go 1 mph or 100 mph!”

The first '95 Wrangler was 4-cylinder. So four years ago, Paul traded up for the 6-cylinder version. This one has a 4” lift and 33” tires, and the previous owner was a “Barbie doll” who only drove it to the mall. Using Glenn’s website as a guide, Paul prepared the Jeep for NM4-wheelin’, rather than grocery-gittin’. He installed custom front and rear bumpers, CB radio, high-lift jack, tow hooks, under-hood compressor, and a winch. Although happy with these upgrades, he looks forward to getting ARB lockers some day.

Born and bred in Albuquerque, Paul graduated from UNM. He’s the computer IT manager at Applied Research Associates (ARA). ARA is an engineering firm that specializes in civil engineering and software modeling, and whose main customers are DOD and DOT. As IT manager, Paul often travels to the ARA site offices around the country.

To relieve work stress, Paul enjoys hiking, mountain biking, rollerblading, and “computer geek stuff”. He likes video games that require interaction with others; Guitar Hero is a favorite. Though too modest to say so, Paul is an accomplished musician. He’s played trombone and piano since 4<sup>th</sup> grade. He was in the Albuquerque Youth Symphony in high school, and then the UNM marching band. During college, he was in a rock band called The Circuit Breakers, so named “because we were too loud for some bars.”

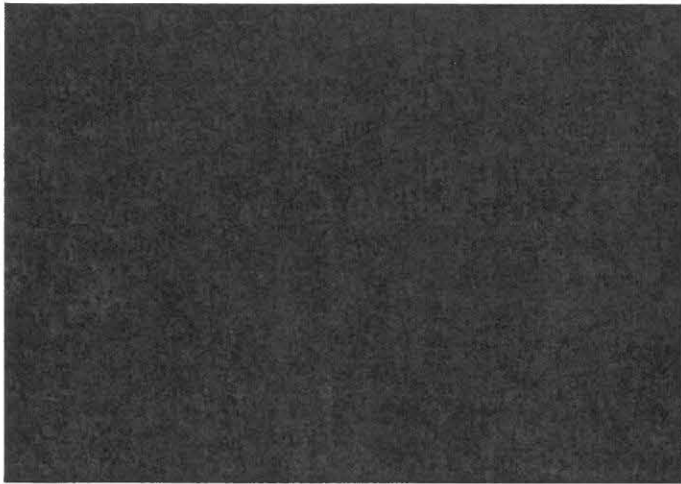
His two Bassett hounds, Lucy and Schroeder, sometimes accompany him in the Jeep. He hopes they can try the Jeep on some technical runs, but isn’t sure when or where that would be. Sounds like Paul needs to check out the Chile Challenge in February (and buy some raffle tickets, right Leon?). We welcome Paul to NM4W. It’s the place to be for anyone interested in vehicles, four-wheeling, exploring, and having fun off-the-beaten-path.

### **Cedro Peak Night Ride**

by Glenn Bontly

Jan & I have been wanted to go night riding all summer long. But with all of the rain we got early in the season, moving Jan and then me into new houses, and a myriad of other things that always seemed to come up, it just never happened. Realizing that our schedules would be free the coming weekend, combined with a forecast of clear skies and a bright moon, we set the event for 4 Nov. A few of us met for dinner at China Best in Cedar Crest, and then made our way to the Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras for our 7 pm meeting time. Nine vehicles awaited the evening adventure!





**Here's a picture of the group, from left to right:**

Glenn & Jan, Erwin & Jeanne Greven, Cliff Meier, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Dan Pritchard, Mark & Maria Berglund, Phil Rodacy, and guests Tony & Gina Roybal and Greg Brown.

Sorry the picture is so dark, but it *was* a night ride!

After a short driver's meeting, we all headed down Hwy 337 to the trailhead. I've been on this trail numerous times, but things are way different in the dark and it was a little difficult to find the turns onto the trail, especially when your headlights are pointing in front and there's minimal lighting to the sides. We aired down by flashlight and started the ride. Just a few days prior, I swapped out my anemic sealed beams with a set of IPF Quartz Halogen units. Wow, what a difference! I felt no need for any higher-intensity "off-road" lights. The IPF lights would not only provide significantly better visibility on the highway, but turned out to be a perfect set up for night trail riding as well.

Traveling east on the trail, we passed the turn-off to the "big hill". That thing scares me during the day; wouldn't even *walk* it after dark! We made our way back to Tablizon Canyon. Unfortunately, this trail was being used by people during the really wet season this year, and the ruts were horrible. It didn't cause any problems for us, but others use this trail as well (hikers, mountain bikers, etc) and it was pretty torn up. Just like on all trail rides, we stressed to everyone to keep the person behind them

in sight at all times. At night, this is even more important! Everyone did a great job and we never got separated during the entire trip. The hardest part of the trail is the narrow rocky hill climb out of Tablizon Canyon, through the trees. The rains seemed to have washed away some of the dirt, and the rocks appeared "larger" than in the past. But still, everyone made it through just fine.

As we rounded the back side of the mountain, we could see the towers at the top of the peak under the glow of the moon, but curiously, there were no marker lights. We drove up to the lookout and had a nice view of the Albuquerque night lights, as well as the traffic on I-40 and North 14.

By this time, it was way past my 9 pm bedtime, so coming off of the mountain, we took the left turn at the concrete, traveled through the group camp area, aired up, and headed home. Although a little chilly, it was a beautiful clear night for the ride. I think Jan & I were the only ones in an open Jeep; all the other "wusses" were enclosed with their heaters running. ;o) We'll definitely have to do this again sometime next summer!

**From the Historian**

Laurye Tanner

Come to the Christmas Party and see a Year in Review of NM4W as a slide show. Still looking for more pictures to put into the slide show. Get them to me ASAP.

Thanks and Merry Christmas.

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

by Mark Werkmeister

**A "Citizen's Proposal" – What Does It Mean?**

By now, most of you have probably heard me mention the term "Citizen's Proposal" when referring to the ongoing Travel Management Rule planning process. Did you ever wonder what I

mean by "Citizen's Proposal" and how it might affect the future of our trails in the Santa Fe Forest and other forests?

The Santa Fe National Forest is in the midst of the travel management planning process brought about by the Travel Management Rule (the new Rule states, in effect, that all motorized travel on the Forests has to be on designated trails). We have attended a series of kick-off meetings and now are in the midst of the first round of "workshop" meetings. We are rapidly getting closer to the point where we will need to introduce a "Citizen's Proposal".

To understand the importance of the Proposal, it is necessary to have a basic understanding of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). **NEPA requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into their decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions.** To meet this requirement, federal agencies prepare a detailed statement known as an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A typical EIS requires a "preferred alternative", a "no action" alternative to provide a current baseline, and a range of other alternatives. The preferred alternative is the agency's best effort at taking all of the information they have (including public input) and using that information and their professional knowledge to craft a plan that best meets the requirements of whatever action they are undertaking.

As you might guess, the preferred alternative does not always meet the interests or requirements of interested bodies of the public. The agency has to solicit and consider input from the public, but they don't have to include that input in the preferred alternative if they don't believe it meets their various requirements. In order to provide the public a range of choices on which to comment, they are required to also provide a range of alternatives.

By general use and precedence, a well-thought-out and nicely documented "Citizen's Proposal" is usually given a place as one of the other alternatives considered. **The anti-access groups have used**

**Citizen's Proposals to great effect in previous federal agency actions.**

Why is getting our needs included as an alternative so important? Each of the alternatives included in the EIS requires full study and discussion of the alternative by the agency, how the alternative impacts the affected environment, and the environmental consequences of the proposed alternatives as it relates to the proposed action. **In a nutshell, once a Citizen's Proposal is included as an alternative, the agency has to treat it seriously and give it the full weight of their available expertise. They can't just dismiss it!** Having a motorized recreation sponsored alternative also gives the public a motorized recreation friendly alternative to support. If there is enough support, features of the alternative can get integrated into the final plan.

**I am willing to serve as "compiler and editor" of a 4WD Citizen's Proposal, but I will need a LOT OF HELP.** I am not familiar with ALL of the trails. I will need detailed descriptions of the trails, their locations, and their routes, what specific features they include that make them desirable and/or unique, how they relate to the larger trail network we are proposing, what potential environmental concerns their use may cause, and how those concerns could be mitigated. **We have an excellent template to work from, but I won't lie to you: A Citizen's Proposal is a LOT OF WORK!** The more complete and detailed it is, the easier it is for the agency to adopt it as a viable alternative to be considered.

The timing of our submission is important also. It needs to be soon enough that it can be integrated into the agency's range of alternatives considered (or even integrated into the preferred alternative). It needs to be late enough that we have some idea of how much of the existing roads system is going to be left in place. It won't make sense to do a full analysis by the club of roads that we KNOW are going to be left open. My best guess is that we will need to submit it sometime between March and May 2007.

**If you are interested in helping craft this proposal, please let me know.** I will be actively

soliciting participants at the club's annual Christmas Party (you know, get them to volunteer when they are full of holiday cheer!). See you all there!

Mark  
NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.

### Tank Trap Trail by Glenn Bontly



Tank Trap has been one of my favorites since my first time through this challenging trail. I remember riding it at least 4 times the summer before last. With all the rains this past year, we've pretty much stayed away from this one. The whole trail is in the bottom of a stream bed; not a good place to be during the rainy season! On our 11 Nov trip, Jan & I had 15 vehicles join us: Mark Werkmeister dusted on his Scrambler, Pat & Sue Brady brought their soft-sprung Tacoma, Heath Hislop in his little Samurai (boasting 1300cc's of "high-revving fury"), Kristy in her TJ (whom Jan's 15 year old son, Brandon, chose to ride with cuz Kristy was "cuter" than Mark), the Whistons Jr. in their Unlimited, Dan Prichard (XJ) brought along former member Dixon Patrick, Don Miller (XJ) hosted guest Sheree Barns, Mark Berglund (TJ), Brad Opatz (TJ) with new Dana 44 front axle and 37" MT/Rs (I'm jealous), Justin Simenson and Rebecca Tafoya (TJ), Eric & Jasmine Capener (TJ), former member Steve Hunt from Santa Fe in his "too tall" 4-Runner, and guests Doug & Eric Pannel, Dennis Wong, and Mike McDuffy.



It's a long trek from Bernalillo to Santa Fe. And after the air down point, it's still another 30 minutes to the trail head. But it's well worth the trip to ride Tank Trap. If I could find another way into the trail, I would. Cuz the first obstacle is on an off-camber hill, whereby if you roll, you will end up upside down in a pond and probably drown. I'm sure it *feels* way worse than it really is. Anyway, the fact that it took over 2 hours to get 16 vehicles through should tell you something!



After that, there are a series of really big rocks throughout the trail to play on. Some obstacles have easy-moderate-hard options, others have bypasses. However, there are some sections that you *must* go through, and this is why the trail is rated as hard. For the most part, everyone's vehicle was reasonably well equipped for this trail. A few people had minor problems here and there, I'm sure some vehicles attained new "personality" that day;



but as far as I know, everyone made it through without any major damage. Darn, and I was hoping to get some practice using my new welder!



In all the times I've driven this trail, I've yet to find the right way out of the streambed. One day, we'll have to find a more appropriate route back to the road. But for that day, we just found a clearing and went cross-country style. Upon exiting the streambed, we heard people shooting in the local area. Most likely shot guns, as was evidenced by the shot that rained down on us just before we all jumped back in our vehicles and high-tailed it out of there with horns honking!

## Air Compressors

By Glenn Bontly

It's a well known fact that airing down your tires will significantly increase your traction on the trail, not to mention soften the ride. For the highway drive back to camp, however, you will need a way to refill your tires. Driving at high speed and low tire pressure is a very dangerous combination. And it gets old having to "bum" air from your trail buddies after every ride. A good onboard air system is a must-have accessory if you plan to air down for trail riding.

There are two primary types of air compressors: electric and engine-driven.

Electric compressors are compact, portable, and easy to install. However, even the expensive, high-

end units don't put out much volume, and they draw a lot of electrical power.

Compressors usually carry Cubic Feet per Minute (CFM) at various Pressures per Square Inch (PSI) ratings. For example, a VIAIR 500C compressor produces a volume of 1.4 CFM @ 100 PSI and draws 17 amps of power ([www.viaircorp.com](http://www.viaircorp.com)).

Engine-driven compressors are permanently mounted under your hood (i.e., non-portable) and they take up much more space than an electric, but they produce an incredible amount of volume and they won't run down your battery. A York 210 Series compressor, for example, is capable of producing 8+ CFM, depending on engine speed (<http://www.kilbyenterprises.com/compressors.htm>).

"Duty cycle" is another consideration. The York 210 has a 100% duty cycle, which means you can run it all day long. The VIAIR 500C, on the other hand, only has a 33% duty cycle at 100 PSI. This means you should only run it continuously for 20 minutes, followed by a 40-minute cool down period. In other words, you can probably air up all of your tires in one session, but you will have to turn down your buddy when he asks you for air. Otherwise, you risk burning up your compressor from overheating.

In addition to airing up tires, a good compressor (especially used in conjunction with a storage tank) can be used to run air tools and reseal tire beads.

You may have noticed my bias towards engine-driven compressors. I have one in my vehicle, and it has turned out to be the most useful accessory in my Jeep. For more info on my set up, visit my web site at [www.webejeepin.com/Glenns\\_Jeep/onboard-air1.htm](http://www.webejeepin.com/Glenns_Jeep/onboard-air1.htm).



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## 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 contact one of our officers for membership requirements, or visit 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. Around the first of each month, the current issue of Trail Tales is posted at [www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/newsletters.htm) and an e-mail notification is sent to all club members. In addition, a minimum of 2 years of back issues of our newsletter is also available on the web site. 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 participation in this program.

**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, 11404 Ocoola Rd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

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## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Dec 2	Christmas Tree Run	Call Justin Simenson	505-299-6982
Dec 9	Holiday Party	Call Phil & Ilene Rodacy	505-710-4928
Dec 30 – Jan 1	Rockin' New Years at Gordy's Hill	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Feb 21 – 24	2007 Chile Challenge	Las Cruces 4WD Club	N/A

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