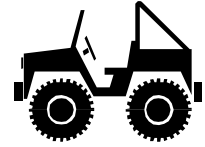


Trail Tales



January 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

New Format for the Trail Tales Online

by Glenn Bontly

Happy New Years everyone! I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue as your newsletter editor for another year. I *truly* enjoy serving the Club in this capacity! I believe the primary reason for the continued success of the Trail Tales is due to the overwhelming support from our membership. I am especially grateful to Joan Wolf for her *awesome* Member Spotlight series. For me, it has opened numerous doors of communications with many new and existing members, learning that we have other things in common besides off-roading. Other regular contributors to the Trails Tales during this past year include Beth Whiston, Frank G. Whiston, Lauri Rector, Mark Werkmeister, & Mark Wolf. A BIG thanks to all of you!

For this coming year, I'm going to change the format of the online version of the newsletter. In the past, I've created the Trail Tales using MS Word, and then had to cut 'n paste, and reformat the whole thing into html for the web site. It has been very time consuming. For the past year in my airplane club (I was also the newsletter editor and webmaster), I simply converted the Word document into a .pdf file. It seems to have been a big success.

Therefore, beginning with this issue of the Trail Tales, I will be posting an Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf) to the web site.

There will be two ways for you to view the newsletter. The easiest method will take a little longer, but if you *Left-Click* on the link, it will automatically open your Acrobat Reader, and load the newsletter. However, if you are willing to click a few more buttons, it will be faster to download the actual file to your computer hard drive. Other benefits to this method include saving the actual newsletter files to your computer for future reference, e-mailing them to friends and family, and printing out hard copies any time you desire. To download the newsletter to your computer (it's not as hard as it may appear in my directions!):

1. Go to www.nm4w.org/newsletter.htm.
2. Locate the issue you wish to download in the appropriate table (e.g., Jan 2007).
3. *Right-Click* on the applicable link (i.e., Jan 2007) and "Save Target As..."
4. When the "Save As" window opens on your screen, select a location under "My Documents" where you want to save the file, and click the "Save" button.
5. After the file finishes downloading, a "Download Complete" window will pop up.
6. Simply click the "Open" button, which will automatically open your Acrobat Reader and that month's issue of the newsletter.

In the unlikely event that your computer doesn't have Acrobat Reader installed, you can download it for free at www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html. This link will also be displayed at the top of the Newsletter Page on the web site.

As always, if you have any problems with accessing the newsletter online, *please* let me know and I will help you to get it to work.

Meeting Minutes

From December 9, 2006
by Joan Wolf



For the second year in a row, the December Christmas Party/Meeting was held at Phil and Ilene Rodacy's house in Four Hills. After most of us had thoroughly stuffed ourselves from a wonderful array of holiday food, the meeting was called to order by President Lauri Rector at 6:42 p.m.

Guests: Mike & Judy Spindler, Ken & Denise Damico, Mick Vandre.

Members Present: Paul & Eveliina Baca, Glenn Bontly & Jan Montano, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Mike & Kristy Coe, Leon & Marcia Duggar, Ryan & Betsy Eklund, Tom Hurt, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Jason & Sara Lavy, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Mike Robertson & Kathy Wolf, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Justin Simenson & Rebecca Tafoya, Laurye Tanner, Paul & Mary Thompson, Craig & Mary Turpin, Mark & Jennifer Werkmeister, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

Secretary's Report – Beth Whiston: In no time, it was voted to squelch reading last month's minutes. That was a good thing since no one had a Trail Tales handy.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson: \$2,969.35 bank balance. There may be some outstanding food bills.

VP/Sheriff Report – Mark Wolf: The points chart was available for review. No fines were levied and the Sheriff was chided for not bringing in fine revenues (but he said no one pays them anyway).

Trip Chairman's Report – Frank Whiston: Oops, I don't think this was discussed.

Director of Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Thanks to everyone for attending the National Forest Travel Management Rule meetings. Mark provided input sheets for those who were unable to make the meetings. Joanne Spivak, President – NMOHVA, commented that though the meetings are tedious, attendance really does matter. Attendees' names are always recorded. Our actions (emails, letters, surveys, etc.) have a cumulative effect. The government agencies realize that off-highway proponents are not going away. As an example, she has been invited to meet next year with Tom Dwyer, Planner for USFS Region 3 (AZ and NM). Tom Dwyer knows there will not be funding to support trail maintenance and they will need us.

Miles Standish from the Espanola District of the Santa Fe National Forest advised Wolfie that he can't find the Adopt-A-Trail paperwork for the Sage Brush Flat Trail. The FS will develop some new documents and may look at moving the gate from what has been the end of the trail. Wolfie volunteered the club to assist in relocating the gate.

Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx: Not present. Justin Simenson passed around website information he'd found on two agencies for consideration of a financial donation from the club (see Old Business below).

Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner: Due to technical difficulties, the slide show of 2006 runs wasn't available. Laurye will bring the slide show another time.

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Due to more technical difficulties (these *!^%* computers), the President's Report submitted by Lauri Rector for the last newsletter got lost in cyberspace, sorry Lauri. If any Comcast subscribers are not getting club emails, notify Glenn. There seem to be some problems.

Old Business:

There was discussion about who/when/what the club wanted to do as a community service project. It was voted on to contribute \$250/ea (\$750 total) to three agencies: NM Veterans Integration Center, All Faiths Receiving Home, and the APS Title I Homeless Project. It was decided *not* to fund the Toyota Owner's Charitable Fund (our pockets aren't that deep).

It was voted and approved to reimburse the Rodacy's for whatever tonight's meat cost (~\$175). Everyone thanked Ilene Rodacy and Sue Brady for arranging the meat purchase. The spiral ham and turkey breasts were delicious.

New Business:

Leon encouraged everyone to take and sell Chile Challenge raffle tickets. This is the main revenue source for the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association. The event is February 21-24, 2007.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m. Thanks to Laurye Tanner for managing the gift exchange. Wolfie ended up with a totally cool Tonka Jeepster (purchased at a Central Avenue antique store by Sara Lavy). It (the Jeepster, not Wolfie) certainly appears to be an antique. Also, thanks to all the members who brought toys for Toys for Tots and to Frank G. and Beth Whiston for delivering them. Lastly, thanks to Phil and Ilene Rodacy for opening up their beautiful, spacious home for the NM4W holiday party.



President's Report

By Lauri Rector

We should all give thanks to Glenn from sparing us from having to read last month's President's Report. Maybe he has something up his sleeve to save us this month.

I hope everyone is enjoying their holidays and the snow (and tons thereof). I would be, if I drove something other than a Wrangler, and if the city could be a little better equipped for overnight freeze of what's left on the street. Other than that, I'm really happy that we are getting all of this moisture. Hopefully it will mean a Memorial weekend camp outing in the Jemez. Now that's fun!!!

I hope everyone had a good time bringing in the New Year and I wish the best for everyone in 2007. Hope to see you all at the January meeting.

Member Spotlight: Jerry & Mary Moran

By Joan Wolf

The Morans are new to New Mexico, having moved here a couple of years ago from Basin, Wyoming (~1 hour east of Cody). They like New Mexico weather and scenery, and are pleasantly surprised at the cultural and entertainment scene in Albuquerque. They loved the wildness and beauty of Wyoming—but felt there was nothing else. “There are more cows than people,” Mary says about the Cowboy State. Both Mary and Jerry grew up around Fort Collins, Colorado and met when they were students at Colorado State University (CSU). After graduating in Business Management, Jerry landed a job in the



aircraft industry in Seattle. Then, after eight years in Washington, his career took them to Wyoming for a job in aircraft maintenance and manufacturing. After four years in Wyoming, the minus 17 degree winter days took their toll, and Jerry got hired at Eclipse Aviation in sunny Albuquerque. At Eclipse, Jerry supervises the Friction Stir Weld Department. His group welds skin assemblies that make up the fuselage of the aircraft.

Mary majored in Archeology, Anthropology, and English at CSU. As Editor with an East Coast publishing house, she can perform her job from any location with Internet access. Her job flexibility has worked nicely with the moves. Recently, Mary obtained her real estate license and works part-time with Keller Williams. This gives her the chance to socialize and constantly see different houses and neighborhoods in the metro area, something she enjoys.

Where did the four-wheeling interest come from? Jerry remembers his first trip at age 12 in Colorado. He went camping with friends who had 4WD vehicles. They went on a hilly trail and got sideways—and Jerry loved it! He first got behind the wheel of a Jeep in high school. He had a summer job in the mountains and the boss didn't do mornings. So Jerry was allowed to take the boss's stock CJ-7 out until the workday started. Jerry marveled at the CJ's capability of going almost anywhere.

Mary always liked the outdoors and was a horse person, but didn't go off-highway much until meeting Jerry. In an effort to meld their interests, Mary agreed to learn to ride a dirt bike, if Jerry would learn horses. Mary enjoyed seeing wildlife and scenery as never before on the dirt bike and in Jerry's 4WD vehicle (a 1983 CJ-5 at that time). And it turned out that Jerry had a way with horses. That led to participation in equestrian events; Jerry showed in "hunter/jumper" and Mary showed in "dressage" (she explains this as ballet on a horse).

Jerry bought their '05 Wrangler Rubicon about a year ago. It's bone stock, but maybe not for long. After hammering through some rough parts of Caballo in October, Jerry got the itch for new tires, wheels, lift kit, and onboard air. After some upgrades, Jerry wants to tackle Tank Trap, and some day Moab and the Rubicon. Mary's enjoyed the NM4W Labor Day Zuni Mountain trip for the scenery, wildlife, and remoteness.

Their favorite trail in Wyoming was Bolder Basin in the Bighorn Mountains. It's not a well-known trail, but presents plenty of challenges and breathtaking scenery. At the time, Jerry had a 1976 CJ-5 with clutch linkage issues due to a 2" body lift installed by a previous owner. He drove $\frac{3}{4}$ of the trail and all the way home with no clutch!

Their '01 Grand Cherokee took them to many remote camping spots in Wyoming. It currently is used for toting Mary's real estate open-house signs around Albuquerque. For off-highway travel, Mary admits to having "tipping issues", and is happy to ride, not drive. She was a good



sport and drove last summer's Chick Challenge in the Jemez. Now she can say, "Been there, done that."

For many years, the Morans had quite an animal menagerie of horses, llamas, chickens, and geese. Jerry provided this factoid, "Bears don't like the llama scent, so in Wyoming grizzly country, llamas are often used as pack animals." An avid hunter, the llamas packed for Jerry on many Wyoming hunting trips.

Currently, their four-legged friends are cats Duncan and Phoebe; and Emma, a Vizsla, which is a Hungarian pointing dog. Emma loves Jeeping and hunting, and she started retrieving pheasants at age one. Emma's official name is Lady Emmaline Pheasant Slayer.

Jerry is an avid fly fisherman and hunter. He looks forward to getting drawn for Oryx next year. Both he and Mary enjoy shooting, and they frequently go to the rifle range. Mary likes shopping (she's probably making up for lost time in Basin, WY), gardening, and home décor. They acquired many beautiful antiques, including a spinning wheel, when they lived in Washington State.

The Morans enjoy NM4W and were surprised "at the age of the group". That's meant as a compliment (they're not calling us a bunch of old geezers!) Rather, they appreciate the maturity, Tread Lightly philosophy, and no-alcohol-on-the-trail stipulation. Jerry hopes his 70-80 hour work weeks slow down after Eclipse completes manufacturing startup. He'd like to do more NM4W activities, and maybe some day run for Sheriff. That's great, his participation is welcome. He just needs to understand that a gun doesn't go with the position. Twenty-five cent fines suffice for most offenses.

We feel Jerry and Mary's pain for -17 degree days in Wyoming, and welcome them to sunny New Mexico and NM4W!

Snow, Ice, and 4WD

By Glenn Bontly

As I write this article, I'm looking outside at our second big snow fall of this winter. Although I had gotten used to it living in the mountains for the past several years, it's quite a sight here in the city! The streets are snowy, slushy, and/or icy all over town. Many people think that since we have 4WD vehicles, we can drive in all weather conditions and go anywhere. We no doubt have a big advantage over our 2WD brethren during inclement weather, but it still requires a whole new mindset regarding driving, especially on the streets here in town. Although your 4WD affords you greater traction to "go" in such conditions, it does *nothing* to help you stop! Many of our vehicles do not have antilock brakes, which makes for a hair-raising experience when you mash the stop pedal only to find yourself sliding into an intersection of cross traffic. The only way to regain traction, is to let off of the brake pedal until your tires start turning again, then *ease* back onto the brakes. Of course, when you want to stop, the last thing that comes to mind is *releasing* your brakes!

Another disadvantage for most of us is our tires. Although mud tires do pretty good in deep snow, they suck on ice! Those little "slits" in the tread of most street and all-terrain tires, call "siping", provide extra traction on wet and icy roads. Most of us run mud tires, which usually don't having any siping.

Lockers are also a problem for driving in snow and ice. Without going into a lot of detail, a vehicle with open diffs will have much better control than one that is locked up. If you have selectable lockers (i.e., air, electric, or cable actuated), turn the lockers *off* while driving in icy conditions. If you have automatic lockers, be extremely careful with the gas pedal!

Albuquerque drivers aren't accustomed to driving in such treacherous conditions. In fact, they don't even do very well when the weather is good! So please be extra careful driving your 4WD vehicle on the streets this winter!

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

Greetings everyone! May your New Year be healthy, happy, and full of new trail opportunities! Rather than spend this month's piece looking back on 2006's successes (and they were many!), I would like to focus our attention on 2007 and a few of the issues that we know will be before us in the coming months:

BLM Socorro Field Office Resource Management Plan: The draft of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) should be out sometime in the coming months (although I have been saying that since early last summer) if the review copy ever gets out of the Washington office. The RMP is important because it contains the proposed designation of the Gordy's Hill OHV area. Once the area is designated, we can get on with the business of helping to craft a management plan for the OHV area. This is where we will work on the actual trail designation and site specific actions needed to ensure environmentally responsible trails.

Santa Fe National Forest Travel Management Plan: This one will consume some time throughout the year, starting with the 2nd round of workshops which should be kicking off shortly. We will be finishing and publishing our Citizen's Proposal for a 4WD trail system on the Forest, taking full advantage of the existing road system and proposing additions and changes as necessary.

Cibola National Forest Travel Management Plan: The Cibola NF has chosen to pilot a 'collaborative' approach on the Sandia District. Bob Telepak is our club's official representative to the process. The group's 2nd meeting is scheduled for Jan 16th. The public is invited to attend the meetings, although the public input is somewhat limited through the collaborative approach that is being employed. Once the group finishes its proposal, it is still necessary for the Forest to use a typical review/comment period for any final plans.

Dona Ana County Land Use Proposal: Our brothers and sisters in Las Cruces are heavily involved in trying to help craft a proposal for future land use for public lands in Dona Ana County. This is important as it directly affects the existing Chile Canyon trail system, any potential Trackways National Monument, and other areas we know and love. The Greens are trying to use this opportunity to close down access to much of the area (including trying to have Broad Canyon declared a wilderness area), so the 4WD influence is important.

There will be others, but these 'top four' will be the focus for much of our club's efforts. I will continue to keep the club informed of developments, opportunities to express our desires and chances to develop alternatives that include 4WD recreation.

If you make New Year's resolutions, here are a few to consider:

- Resolve to get out in your vehicle more often, even if it is a Toyota or (shudder) even a Scout or Samurai. Just kidding, folks! Sometimes we forget why access on public lands is so important, but a fun day out on the trail with your friends will remind you of just what we stand to lose.

- Resolve to actively support pro-access groups like the New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Coalition (NMOHVC) and the Blue Ribbon Coalition. Join these groups, and support them with your dollars and efforts. They are fighting for your rights to use public lands!
- Resolve to be more involved in the New Mexico 4 Wheelers; not just land use issues, but all aspects of the club. You are lucky to be a member of one of the best four wheeling clubs anywhere!

For Comcast E-Mail Users

By Glenn Bontly

If you have a comcast.net e-mail address, you *may* not be receiving messages address to our member's e-mail group. A few months ago, I was notified by our web host that Comcast had blocked their mail server. I've tested various scenarios throughout this period, and it seems like some Comcast users are getting club mail and others aren't. Some of you have provided me with alternate e-mail addresses (e.g., gmail, yahoo, etc) and this seems to have at least put a band-aid on the problem. At a minimum, I send out a notice each month when I post the Trail Tales on the web site. If you are a Comcast user and you have *not* been receiving these notices, you may want to provide me with an alternate e-mail address as well. I'm sorry for the inconvenience, but I have been unable to solve the problem otherwise. Thanks for your understanding!



For Sale



2006 Little Guy Camper Trailer. This is a 4 ft wide deluxe Tear Drop Camper. You can go to www.golittleguy.com to view specs. I bought this new in February. It is in great shape and a great camper for 1 - 2 folks. It has the same footprint as a Jeep Wrangler. We have had it off road and it does just fine. We are moving and need to sell in the next 3 weeks. If we where not moving we would not be selling, we have had great times in this camper. I paid \$3400 new for this and am selling for \$ 2600. My loss is your gain. If interested please call Jordan at 505-241-9100, or email jassou48@hotmail.com, I am in Albuquerque, SW if you would like to take look.

**For Additional Classified Ads,
please visit our web site at
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.

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 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 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 **25th of the prior month**. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 11404 Ocoola Rd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Dec 30 – Jan 1	Rockin’ New Years at Gordy’s Hill	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-029
Jan 11	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-654
Feb 8	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-654
Feb 21 – 24	2007 Chile Challenge	Las Cruces 4WD Club	N/A

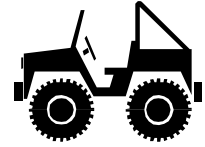
NM4W Officers

President Lauri Rector 228-6547 President@nm4w.org	Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 Vice-president@nm4w.org	Secretary Beth Whiston 292-1541 Secretary@nm4w.org
Treasurer Paul Thompson 293-8396 Treasurer@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Jerry Marx 922-9370 Program-chairman@nm4w.org	Historian Laurye Tanner 281-0994 Historian@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!





Trail Tales



February 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From January 11, 2006
by Beth Whiston



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

Guests: Dennis Wong, Tim & Pat Nash, Rick Ferguson, and William Shepherd.

Members Present: Abbate, Bontly, Brady, Caskey, Chapin, Cochrane, Coe, Cox, Duggar, Gjerner, Greven, Kausche, Marks, Marx, Meier, Moran, Norton, Rector, Rodacy, Simenson, Telepak, Werkmeister, Whiston Jr., and Wolf.

Secretary's Report – Beth Whiston: After a long discussion, everybody accepted the minutes as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson: Paul was not present, Lauri Rector reported. After writing checks last month to APS Title I Homeless Project, All Faiths Receiving Home, and NM Veterans Integration Center for \$250 each, along with a few other expenses, our balance is \$2,015.03.

Beth Whiston received a Thank You letter from APS Title I Homeless Project. Lauri Rector read it to the group.

Vice President's Report – Mark Wolf: Mark brought the points list to the meeting, please check your points and make sure they are accurate. Why do we have points? There is a five point requirement for membership. This is done so the person can check out the club and make sure he or she likes us! You receive 1 point for attending a meeting, 3 points for sponsoring an event, and 3 points for attending an overnight event. Guests, please sign the sheet with name, address, and email address so you can get a point for attending the meeting.

Trip Chairman's Report – Frank Whiston: Gordy's Hill New Year trip was cancelled because of the snow. That was the only run scheduled.

Mark Wolf's run to Sagebrush Flats is postponed due to weather. He will keep trying and see how the weather goes. It's not the trail he is worried about, but the road from here to there.

2007 SWFWDA Winter Quarterly--a.k.a., The CHILE CHALLENGE! Will take place from Wednesday, February 21 – Saturday, February 24. The Chile Challenge 2007 will be held at the Fairgrounds just southwest of Las Cruces, NM. Several people will arrive on Tuesday (the 20th), trail ride the next 4 days, and return home on Sunday (the 25th). There's a catered meal on both Friday and Saturday evenings; and several thousands-of-dollars of prizes will be raffled off after the Saturday evening meal. You MUST pre-register for your trails; and the good ones usually fill up fast. Mark your calendar NOW for this not-to-miss event!

Buy some RAFFLE TICKETS if you have not already! You need not be present to win!

Frank sent out an email for All-4-Fun. Registration is limited. If interested, send in the registration ASAP. They will provide a refund as long as a written request is received by June 1st. Contact Frank G. Whiston with any questions.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Thanks to those who showed up to the workshop on the evening of January 10th. The next round starts mid-February into March. During the 2nd round, they will tell us what we all said with the maps and comments, then tell us what information they gathered from the comments; then we have a chance to comment on that!

Cibola National Forest will soon be holding a collaboration meeting for the Travel Management Planning. On January 24th there will be a workshop 6-9pm in the UNM Continuing Ed. Room C. (Same location as the January 10th meeting). Everybody is invited. This information will be posted on the website. Some meetings are just for the collaborative team, but anybody can show up to listen or help.

On March 1-4, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) will be in Albuquerque to conduct a free New Mexico National Forest (Cibola and Santa Fe) OHV Route Designation Workshop. The first two days (Thursday & Friday) they are going to teach forest service personnel about the forest service process. The last two days are for everybody else. This is specifically tailored to travel management. You have to pre register. It is not limited to just forest service on Thursday and Friday. Anybody can go. Mark Werkmeister signed up for Friday, Saturday, & Sunday. This will go on the club calendar. This is a valuable opportunity to rub shoulders with the people we are working with. It will be held at the Hilton.

Mike Bilbo of the Socorro BLM heard that the draft resource plan should be out for public comment by end of January. Don't hold your breath. Mark Werkmeister will send something out if it happens.

We have a busy year. Hang in there and keep swinging. Keep up the good work!

Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx: We have new clothing! There are some long sleeve T's, pocket T's, and sweatshirts. There are a limited number of sizes in limited colors. Within the budget that's what we had to do. There have also been several requests for a decal – the red/white/blue decal through Zia Graphics it is extremely expensive!! Any ideas? Paul Thompson sent an email to Lauri about another place to get decals. She received a fine for deleting that email! Paul will be contacted to send that email to Jerry.

Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner: She has not received any pictures because there were no runs. Laurye wants to let all the members know that once you post to snapfish.com there is a "Share" button that you need to click and place the members address so everybody else can see them.

Laurye is still interested in doing the calendars. Does anybody know of people who can help with the funding? Leon said that he will talk to some manufacturers. Laurye was thinking maybe a Jeep dealership? We could have some copies to sell to make a little profit.

Webmaster & Newsletter Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Nothin'!

Old Business: Joan Wolf and Mary Thompson picked July 14th at the Carolino Canyon picnic grounds for the July meeting. She needs a check within 30 days to secure the spot. We voted on a \$125.00 check to be given to Joan to secure the spot! Sounds like F U N! Horseshoes anybody? Bocce ball?

New Business: Auge's 4x4 101 – What to do? Robert Auge sent an email to the officers about the 4x4 101. He is proposing a trail drive instead of a dealership event. He suggested starting at the dealership, going into the Bosque near the store, then go back to the dealership for a hamburger lunch or such. These are just some thoughts and it will require some advance preparation. We could encourage people to take their own vehicles, or go with experienced trail drivers and learn on the road. He is interested in the NM4W's opinion. NM4W members feel there is a liability issue. Also, nobody knows where to go. Frank G. is going to email Robert Auge back to see if he can propose some places to run and still get us back in a reasonable time. There was also a concern about advertisement...has there been any advertising?

Lauri received an email from somebody who has an off-road ranch. This ranch is located 50 miles SW of Roswell. It is owned by a group of people who rent/lease the ranch for outdoor activities. There was concern

about what there is to actually do out there that pertains to 4-wheeling. Lauri will email him back and let him know that as of right now we do not have an interest.

Mark Werkmeister - wants to reschedule Gordy's Hill on Friday, March 17th - Saturday, March 18th. There will be a potluck on Saturday. Wear your green...

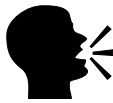
Mark also proposed the annual Mt. Blanca trip to take place on September 8th.

Chile Challenge raffle - Leon has not gotten any raffle tickets back yet. Last year Leon asked for pictures to make a DVD to email to manufactures! They were very impressed with pictures from the Chile Challenge and want to help out. The ratchet strap people wanted to use some of the pictures in their catalog! BFG and Warn are both on board. See Leon for more tickets! Need not be present to win! Leon will take cash or check. The NM4W are members of the SWFWDA. The raffle goes towards the funds to operate SWFWDA. The raffle is on Saturday, February 24th. Leon will get the prizes to you if you win.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:48. Thanks to Jerry and Barbara Marx for hosting!

Winner of the 50/50 drawing: \$84.00 was collected. The club retained \$42.00. Rance Cochrane won \$42.00 and a hat! Leon and Erwin both won hats too.

Money collected for sale of NM4W logo items: \$208.00!



President's Report

By Lauri Rector

Since the last meeting I've been thinking a lot about all of the club members that volunteer their spare time (OK, it's only a free moment here and there). This got me to thinking that maybe my report and some space in the Trail Tails should be devoted to thanking these people.

I would like to make February NM4W's Volunteer Appreciation month!!! I'm just going to state most of the things that our club volunteers do for the club. I'm sure that you will know who these people are. At the February meeting you can thank them and maybe consider if you'd like to take over for them next year.

Some of our best volunteers are the ones that lead trails (even those that have to keep postponing them because of Mother Nature). It's really the basis of our club, without it, we'd just be the "New Mexicos". There is more behind a trail ride than meets the eye (you don't even want to go behind my eye when I lead a trail - there's a lot in my case). Then it's always nice to write an article for the Trail Tails (hence the name of our club newsletter) describing the day on the trail. If you've never led a trail, talk to someone who has at the next meeting, I'm sure they will give you all of the advise you need.

And, I have got to thank everyone that is involved in the Travel Management Rule with Forest Service in New Mexico. The more involved people are spending a tremendous amount of time each month on this. Others are less involved, but are still trying to attend meetings, and much appreciated for their support!!! If we lose the trails in the forest, we will lose a lot!!! Please try to see if you can do anything to help.

We have all of the officers as well, and they also volunteer to do other responsibilities on top of it. At the next meeting, try to take note of who they are and what they do. If you think you'd be interested in a position, talk to that person, they will be happy to discuss the responsibilities with you. Let them know that you'd like to be nominated for a position.

We also have club members who actually volunteer to have the whole club over to their house to have a summer potluck meeting. The really special people are the ones that will host the Christmas Party, where the entire

evening everyone is inside the house. Ask yourself if you'd be willing to do this, we'll be asking for hosts for the summer meetings at the last winter meeting in April, and for the Christmas Party later in the year.

And we have volunteers that will bring snacks and drinks to our meetings at the church. We have someone who calls the church and gets a room reserved from the church for our meetings. We form lots of committees for a lot of different things. Maybe sometime you'll volunteer for one of these.

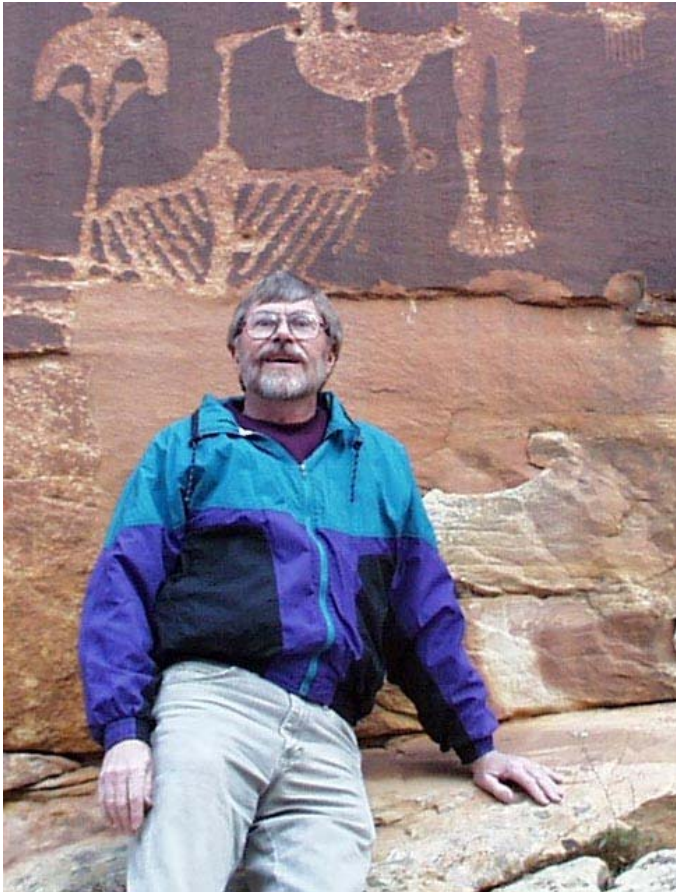
Without all of our club members willing to step in and give of their time to do these things, we would not be the club that we are. It's what makes us a really great club. We can all proudly pat ourselves on the back.

If you have not volunteered, ever or in a long time, please give some thought to changing that. We will be voting in new officers at the July meeting. Please step up and put your name in the hat at the June meeting.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!!!

Member Spotlight: Arne Gjerner

By Joan Wolf



Just because Arne Gjerner (pronounced gair-ning) isn't a high-visibility NM4W member doesn't mean he doesn't drive his rig. In fact, his blue '87 Cherokee XJ has 305,000 miles on the odometer! Granted, much of that is due to a 100 mile/day work commute from Corrales to Laguna, 45 miles west of Albuquerque. His Cherokee has also taken him on many 4WD trails in Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Arne notes that his venerable blue '87 Cherokee was pictured in many 4Wheel Drive and Sport Utility Magazine articles written by Mark Werkmeister about 4WD adventures in Utah.

Just a few weeks ago, Arne went to Grand Junction and bought a stock 1996 Cherokee with 30,000 miles (not even broken in by Arne's standards.) He'll move the ARB front and rear lockers, and Dana 44 rear end, from the old blue Cherokee to the new greenish-gold Cherokee.

Arne joined NM4W 12 years ago, soon after his first 4WD trip. It was through the local amateur (ham) radio club that Arne heard about four-wheeling. Two radio guys, Bob Telepak and Bob Norton, often talked about four-wheeling at the radio meetings. Arne accepted their invitation to Moab; his first run was Poison Spider Mesa. Bob Telepak (a.k.a., Dr. Bob)

drove up the trail and then turned the wheel over to Arne. On the return trip, there was a torrential rain and Dr. Bob walked ahead to find the road. Arne had a great time, and thus was formed the Tres Amigos: Arne, Bob Norton, and Bob Telepak.

Arne is especially proud of the trio's "rediscovery" of the June's Bottom trail. They were on Moab's Ten Mile trail and walked to the edge of a 600 ft. cliff. Arne spotted a road in the distance across from the river. They found the road on a map, drove it, and Bob Norton wrote an article. It became popular once the word got out. Arne says the greens got hold of it and about five years ago June's Bottom was closed.

Arne's other favorite trails are Moab Rim, Poison Spider Mesa, Black Bear, and Holy Cross. Future trails? Arne isn't interested in anything specific. Rather he wants to visit and photograph Indian ruins and will drive or walk to wherever he can find ruins. "For me, four-wheeling doesn't have to be hard core. I'm more interested in learning about the past and the peoples of the Southwest", says Arne.

Not every trail experience is good, as Arne can attest to. His worst experience was helping some inebriated, inexperienced Air Force kids get their Suburban off of Golden Spike. The Suburban had to be winched and dragged from Devil's Crack back to Moab. They finally arrived at Dr. Bob's house in Moab at 1 a.m. Not fun!

Growing up in Oregon (he was born in McMinneville), Arne's passion was fishing. He beams, "The best part of my life was 1951-56. We lived in Port Orford along the southern Oregon coast. I always carried a piece of cardboard with a fishhook and leader so I could fish on any of the many streams or lakes."

After high school, Arne studied electronics at a trade school and served in the Coast Guard Reserves. He later worked for various electronics, testing, and semiconductor companies in Silicon Valley, southern California and Tucson. He moved to Albuquerque in 1984 for a Technical Writer position with a Sandia Labs contractor. For the past 16 years, he's been a Quality Engineer at Laguna Industries, an Indian-owned military contract manufacturer whose main product is a communications shelter. Even though he likes his co-workers and the work, a major life change is around the corner. Sometime in 2007, Arne will retire!



With that freedom, Arne plans to do more four-wheeling, photography, reading, and amateur radio. He's been a radio buff for nearly 40 years and still enjoys talking to people around the world. In 2000, he went to Germany to visit radio friends and has taken European radio friends four-wheeling in Moab. They are awestruck by the vastness of the western U.S. and loved four-wheeling.

Arne is understandably proud of his 24 year-old son, Josh, who just completed three years of his six-year enlistment in the Air Force. After serving a tour in Afghanistan, Josh recently arrived in Iraq where he'll be a Crew Chief (mechanic) on A-10 Warthogs. After the military, Josh plans to attend cooking school in Florida and then move to South Carolina or Georgia.

While Josh is gently coaxing Dad into relocating to the southeast, at the moment Arne is drawn to southwest Colorado. He has good friends in Durango and is looking at property there. A big draw—Moab is 150 miles from Durango vs. Albuquerque's 360-mile distance.

Due to personal family obligations over the past two years, Arne hasn't been able to attend many NM4W events. But with retirement looming, he hopes to get more involved with the club (assuming he doesn't up and leave us for Colorado). At the January meeting he volunteered to check out four-wheeling opportunities near Roswell the next time he visits friends there. And with his "barely-broken in" '96 Cherokee, he's got many more miles ahead to match the 305,000 miles traveled with his '87.

Building a Track Bar Brace

By Frank G. Whiston

After hearing the stories about the mechanical problems that some of the NM4W members had during the 2006 Summer Quarterly, I thought that I would try to prevent these problems in the future on my Jeep. First, when I heard about Glenn's broken control arm bolt, I went out and bought spare bolts to

carry for both the upper and lower control arms, as well as bolts for the track bar. I actually broke a bolt on the axle end of my track bar at All-4-Fun in Silverton. I attribute this to over-torquing the bolt. Luckily, a friend of mine that was with us, Chris Sears, was carrying an assortment of spare bolts and had one that fit. When I heard about Chuck Peeples breaking the track bar mount out of the frame of his Jeep, I thought that I would try to address this problem as well by fabricating a brace.

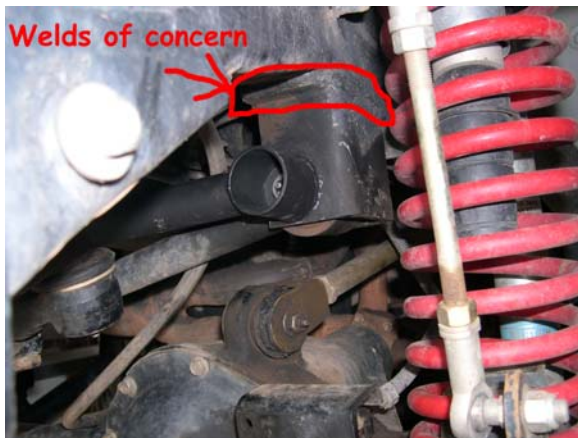


I replaced my factory track bar mount when I did the suspension on my Jeep. The factory mount looks like the one on the left, and the one on my Jeep is the one on the right.



This bracket is from JKS Manufacturing and is intended for use for their do-it-yourself adjustable track bar that employs a Johnny joint on the frame end rather than a ball joint as the factory setup. It also mounts the track bar in double shear which is stronger. Anyway, what I am trying to explain is that my JKS mount allowed me to make my brace the way that I explain here, which would not

be compatible to the factory frame mount.



The concern here is a weld failure where the track bar mount is attached to the frame, as shown to the left.

Some of the higher end suspensions systems that employ track bar lowering brackets to maintain correct geometry come with a brace similar to the one that I built. I used the one included in the Full-Traction suspension system as a baseline for the design. It consists of a bar that runs from the track bar frame mount across to the other frame rail.

I used the existing oval shaped hole in the passenger side of the frame to bolt up to. I started with 1.25" diameter HREW tubing for the bar and found some leftover 1.75" diameter HREW tubing for the ends. A pair of large fender washers and a 4.5" long 1/2-13 grade 8 bolt were also used. The components can be seen below.

I started by cutting two 1.75" long pieces of the larger tubing to make the ends. I grinded a 45° bevel on one end of each of the pieces and did the same to the washers. This formed a V-groove for the weld bead. Then, I welded a washer to each end piece. Next, I trimmed my 1.25" diameter bar to the approximate length required, leaving it a little long. Then I notched one end of the bar to fit against the end piece. Then I mounted each end piece to the Jeep. On the passenger side, the 1/2-13 x 4 1/2 bolt will go all the way through the frame using an existing oval hole. This hole is a little large, so I cut a piece of 1/2" diameter electrical conduit to match the height of the frame. This took up the size difference quite well and also provided some support as to not deform the frame when tightening the bolt.



With the end pieces mounted in place, I held the notched end of the bar against the end piece on the driver's side to determine how much to trim to fit to the passenger side end piece. At this time I noticed that I would need to put a slight bend in the bar to clear the harmonic balancer on the engine. Once this was done, I did another test fit and marked where to notch the other end of the bar. Next, all of the parts were removed from the Jeep and tack welded together. The bar was then installed to check the fit. Some minor tweaking was required before the bar was welded for good.



With the track bar that I have, this brace is probably a lot of overkill. Where this is really needed is when a



suspension system lowers the frame mounting point to maintain correct geometry. What is meant by correct geometry is having a track bar that runs parallel to the drag link, and being close in length. The further away from the frame the track bar is mounted, the more stress is put on the welds to the frame. Mine mounts very close to the frame, so the stress to the welds is minimized. The brace can't hurt! 😊

A Hypothetical Situation

By Mark Wolf

As a member of the NM4W club, I have been thinking about volunteering for public service for quite awhile. I had talked to a Cibola SAR (Search & Rescue) member during one of our training sessions and he gave me the name of a NM State Police person that heads up all of the SAR groups in the state. I was to call this guy and talk about what the NM4W group could offer for searches. Unfortunately, I have not done that, but still have his number. I will call the guy sometime this year and see if there is something we could offer that they could use. I was told that a lot of the searches are for ATV riders or hunters that head out and then get lost. They have a cell phone, but still don't know where they are. This is something that we could help with. I was thinking that we could help in a way that utilizes our skills and vehicles. There are others trained for other types of rescues.

This brings me to another situation. I'm sure several of you have heard about the Public Service offering the Colorado Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (CAFWDC) have done in the Denver area. Several Clubs throughout the Denver area are connected to the local Police and Emergency Management groups who contact them when inclement weather is responsible for traffic related issues. Lately, this is the severe snow that has been dropped on the Denver area. The Four Wheel Drive Clubs have spent numerous hours taking people (emergency personnel, such as Doctors, nurses, etc.) to work, delivering food to the elderly and home bound, as well as helping the police rescue people from situations that they cannot assist with. Most all Government agencies are not allowed to pull people out of a snow bank any longer due to the liability issue and the lack of training that the officer would need to assist in this manner.

I believe that the NM4W's could assist in these types of situations, although maybe in a limited fashion (have to figure out how to deal with the liability issue). If you are also interested in this type of public service, please send me an e-mail letting me know. I will call the State Police guy and talk with him to see if this is possible. We are not as strong as the CAFWDC due to sheer numbers, but we could assist when it's possible.

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

You ARE Making A Difference!

Congratulations NM4W! Yes, each and every one of you! You are making a difference in land use planning and access decisions in New Mexico. By now I am sure you are tired of the seemingly endless stream of emails, reports, and meeting notices that I have been sending out.

“What is it with that Werkmeister guy? I don't remember the last officer filling up my in-box so badly. Doesn't he have anything better to do?”

Friends, it is a symptom of the times in which we live and the form of recreation we have chosen. As you know by now, there are major changes taking place in how the Forest Service manages motorized recreation. The Travel Management Plan implementation will forever change the way we recreate on our National Forests. There is both good and bad in this situation. We may differ on what is 'good' and what is 'bad'. One thing we can all agree on is that we, as a club, are right in the middle of it. And I think that is very good!

I appreciate each and every one of you who has attended one of the seemingly endless string of meetings. I value each and every comment or input into the agency's planning process. I welcome each and every insight you have shared about some trail that we currently enjoy. I anticipate all of the ideas for future opportunities and all of the trail maintenance blisters that the club will 'enjoy' during the coming months. I even deeply appreciate the fact that none of you has told me to 'just shut up' during one of my monthly meeting reports!

I would be lying to you if I told you that we have already reached the top of the hill and we can just coast home on five cylinders and a leaky sidewall. There is still a WHOLE LOT of work to do and it will continue for years (yes, I said years!) to come. There will be set backs and we won't like all of the outcomes all of the time. But no one will ever be able to say that the New Mexico 4 Wheelers weren't involved, or stood around and did nothing while our public lands were shut forever to us and our children.

Most importantly, we are truly making a difference in the way the Forest Service personnel think of us and our sport. We are helping to shape the processes that will determine the designation of trails on the Forest. We are helping to ensure that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the same sport in the same places that has brought so much enjoyment and relaxation to us over the years.

And yes, each of us, including yours truly, does have something better to do. I would like nothing more than to jump in my Jeep and head out to the trails. With continued strong involvement by the club, I hope we can all do that far into the future.

Mark
NM4W - Director of Environmental Affairs

SWFWDA Raffle

By Leon Duggar

Hello all of you New Mexico Four-Wheelers. Tired of the snow? Are you still shoveling out of your driveway? Is the ambient temperature in your garage lower than your deepfreeze? Do you put your adult beverage outside to cool it down? If you said yes to any of the above, you need to head south to the balmy tropical destination of Las Cruces, New Mexico! That's right, folks, Las Cruces. Home of the world-famous Chile Challenge!

What is better than four days of wheeling in the sultry, sunny skies of Las Cruces? Bringing home all the loot that you won at the raffle on Saturday night!! What would you like most . . . the Warn 9.5 winch or the set of four BF Goodrich tires? How about the gift certificates from companies like Rancho, Premier Power Welder, High Impact (Klune-V), Bestop, Detroit Locker, Richmond Gear, Hi-Lift, AGR, M.O.R.E., Mile Marker, Tuffy, Off Again, Tiny Bits Of Silver? The list goes on and on.

There is a trick . . . you must buy a raffle ticket! How do you get one? Call Leon @ 235-8988. Not going to be at the Chile Challenge? Don't worry, I will get your prizes to you. That's right folks, you DO NOT need to be there to win. Thank you and good luck!

Tools

sent in by Carlos Tanner

DRILL PRESS: A Tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer (or Pepsi) across the room, splattering it against that freshly painted part you were drying.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench at the speed of light. Also removes fingerprint whorls and hard-earned guitar calluses in about the time it takes you to say "SH**!!!"

ELECTRIC HAND DRILL: Normally used for spinning pop rivets in their holes until you die of old age.

PLIERS: Used to round off hexagonal bolt heads.

HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle. It transforms human energy into a crooked unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

WISE GRIP PLIERS: Used to round off bolt heads (see pliers above). If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

OXYACETYLENE TORCH: Used almost entirely for setting various flammable objects in your shop on fire. Also handy for igniting the grease inside a wheel hub you're trying to get the bearing race out of.

WHITWORTH SOCKETS: Once used for working on older British cars and motorcycles, they are now used mainly for impersonating that 9/16 or 1/2 inch socket you've been searching for the last 15 minutes.

HYDRALUIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed you new disk brake pads, trapping the handle firmly under the bumper.

EIGHT-FOOT DOUGLAS FIR: 4x4 used to attempt to lever an automobile up off a hydraulic jack handle.

TWEEZERS: A tool for removing splinters from the palm of your hand. (especially Douglas fir!)

TELEPHONE: Tool for calling your neighbor to see if he has another hydraulic floor jack.

\$10 SNAP-ON GASKET SCRAPER: Useful as a sandwich tool for spreading peanut butter or mayonnaise; used also for removing dog crap from your boots.

E-Z OUT BOLT AND STUD EXTRACTOR: A specialized tool that snaps off in bolt holes and is ten times harder than any known drill bit.

TWO-TON HYDRAULIC ENGINE HOIST: A handy tool for testing the tensile strength of bolts and fuel lines you forgot to disconnect.

CRAFTSMAN ½ x 16" SCREWDRIVER: A large motor mount prying tool that inexplicable has an accurately machined screwdriver tip on the end without the handle.

TROUBLE LIGHT: A mechanic's personal tanning booth. Sometimes called a drop-light; it is a good source of vitamin D, "the sunshine vitamin", which is not otherwise found under cars at night. Health benefits aside, its main purpose is to consume 40 watt light bulbs at about the same rate that 105 mm howitzer shells might be used during, say, the first few hours of the Battle of the Bulge. More often dark than light, its name is somewhat misleading.

PHILLIPS SCREWDRIVER: Normally used to stab the lids of old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and squirt oil on your shirt. Can also be used (as the name implies) to round off the interiors of Phillips screw heads.

AIR COMPRESSOR: A machine that takes energy produced in a coal-burning power plant 200 miles away and transforms it into compressed air that travels by hose to a pneumatic impact wrench that grips rusty bolts last tightened 70 years ago, and rounds them off.

PRY BAR: A tool used to crumple the metal surrounding that clip or bracket you needed to remove in order to replace a 50 cent part.

HOSE CUTTER: A tool used to cut hoses ½ inch too short.

HAMMER: Originally employed as a weapon of war, the hammer now-a-days is used as a kind of divining rod to locate expensive parts not far from the object we are trying to hit.

MECHANIC'S KNIFE: Used to open and slice through the contents of cardboard cartons delivered to you front door. Works very well on boxes containing upholstered item, chrome-plated metal, and plastic parts.



For Sale



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

Free Stuff: Jeep Cherokee donut spare (compact spare tire) with tan cover, and tan cargo area cover. Call Marcia Duggar at 505-850-7768.

**For Additional Classified Ads,
please visit our web site at
www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm**

Club Notes

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

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

Trail Tales on the Web Site: In a continuing effort help save natural resources and to control costs, you are encouraged to read the Trail Tales newsletter on the Club Web Site in lieu of receiving a hard copy in the mail. So if you want to help “save some trees”, please send an e-mail to TrailTales@nm4w.org stating that you do not need to receive the hard copy of the newsletter. Thanks for your 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 **25th of the prior month**. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 11404 Oceola Rd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Feb 8	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-6547
Feb 21 – 24	2007 Chile Challenge	Las Cruces 4WD Club	N/A
Mar 1 – 4	NOHVCC: NM National Forest OHV Route Designation Workshop	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Mar 17 – 18	Gordy’s Hill Trip	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296

NM4W Officers

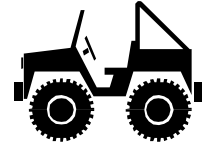
President Lauri Rector 228-6547 President@nm4w.org	Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 Vice-president@nm4w.org	Secretary Beth Whiston 292-1541 Secretary@nm4w.org
Treasurer Paul Thompson 293-8396 Treasurer@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Jerry Marx 922-9370 Program-chairman@nm4w.org	Historian Laurye Tanner 281-0994 Historian@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!

Trail Tales
 11404 Oceola Rd SE
 Albuquerque, NM 87123





Trail Tales



March 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From February 8, 2006
by Frank G. Whiston



Meeting was held at Heights Cumberland Church. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Guests: Mike & Nancy McIntyre (Hemet CA), Sheree Barnes, **Keith & Linda Jurey**, John & Ruth Baker, Tim Nash, **Stuart Tefft**, and Robin Beale (new to the area from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan).

Members Present: Glenn Bontly, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Rance & Elizabeth Cochrane, Leon & Marcia Duggar, **Jim Farrell**, Arne Gjerner, Erwin Greven, **Tom Hurt**, Ed Kausche, **Cliff Meier**, **Jerry & Mary Moran**, **Bob Norton**, Chuck & Ethal May Peeples, Tom Phillips, **Dan Pritchard**, Jeff and Lauri Rector, **Mike Robertson**, **Phil & Ilene Rodacy**, **Justin Simenson**, **Carlos & Laurye Tanner**, **Bob Telepak**, Paul and Mary Thompson, Mary Turpin, Frank G. Whiston, and **Mark Wolf**

(names in bold are those who volunteered to GPS BLM land)

Secretary's Report – Beth Whiston: Frank G. filled in for Beth as Secretary. Laurye Tanner notified everyone that last month's minutes did not show her and Carlos in attendance, but we had her down for the historian's report. The Sheriff said that he would give them points for attendance, but also was considering a fine for failing to sign in. Laurye then said that the point was not worth it. Members present accepted the minutes as printed in the newsletter.

Note from Secretary: **Don't forget to sign in at the meetings!!**

Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson: The club has a balance of \$2,016.11

Vice President's Report – Mark Wolf: The sheriff asked everyone to check their points on the spreadsheet posted on the whiteboard for accuracy. He then reminded everyone to sign attendance list. Wolfie then explained points for the guests (without being reminded to). He might have the whole VP thing figured out by the end of his term!

Trip Chairman's Report – Frank G. Whiston:

- Jim Todt, of the Jeeps West Club in Gallup, NM contacted the Trip Chairman offering to host our club for another weekend in the Zuni Mountains this coming summer like they did back in 2003. Chuck Peeples commented on the good time that they had with their club back in 03. He stated how Jeeps West went all out and did a great job entertaining those of us that went and how if you miss this the last time, you really missed out on a wonderful weekend.

The trip Chairman will propose a weekend in August and get back to the Gallup club. Stay tuned for further developments on this run.

- It looks like the weather is finally going to cooperate this coming weekend (Saturday, February 10th) to run the snow in the Caja Del Rio area (SW of Santa Fe). Wolfie stated that even with the warm temperatures, there will be plenty of snow! I drive by that area every day and see nothing but “white stuff” out that way! Plan on MUD and SNOW!! Bring your tow strap, Hi-Lift jack, and winch if you have one. Also, lunch and plenty of water would be good. I hope everyone will remember that if the sun shines (like it’s supposed to), you better wear sunscreen! Snow reflects sun very well! Also, good gloves (multiple pairs is wise) and good boots will be necessary. No one has usually run this trail before we get there, so there will be lots of trail breaking in the snow (estimated 12” – 36”). I will be at the Conoco station at Hwys 528 and 550 in Rio Rancho on Saturday, February 10th at 8:00 AM. We will pull out at 8:30 AM sharp. Plan on this taking all day. We may be back in town by 6:00 PM or earlier if we’re lucky. It purely depends upon how many vehicles come along and how stuck we get! It will be fun!! I look forward to seeing you there!
- The next run to look forward to is the SWFWDA Winter Quarterly Meeting (a.k.a., the Chile Challenge) at the Las Cruces Fair Grounds February 21-24. Check your mail box; those who did so before the meeting found registration confirmation cards.
- The make up for the Gordy’s Hill New Year trip is scheduled for March 17-18. Mark Werkmeister was not present to comment. Keep an eye on the events schedule for any updates. *(as of the time of this publication, this trip is on hold due to a schedule conflict. It will be discussed further at the March meeting -ed)*
- Registration forms for the SWFWDA Spring Quarterly are out in the 4WDrive Lines newsletter. The “SHO-ME ROCKS” event is being hosted by the Ozark Mountain 4X4 Club at the Southern Missouri Off-Road Ranch April 13-15 near Springfield, MO. More information can be found by visiting the following web sites:
 - www.ozarkmountain4x4club.com
 - www.offrdranch.com

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Not Present. Pat Brady introduced John Hawkos (J_hawkos@blm.nm.gov), a BLM Law Enforcement Ranger, to talk about BLM activities. John now has Law Enforcement duties for all of the ABQ and Socorro BLM lands. He has a background in wildlife biology and he loves motors. John has retirement on his radar screen and has an interest in promoting motorized recreation so that there will be places for him to enjoy once he retires. The BLM is going through a resource management revision and John talked to us about how we can participate in the ABQ/Socorro BLM areas. John is on the transportation team for the Rio Puerco Management Plan revision at the district level. Socorro just went through this revision. John has supported the “Oh My God” motorcycle race and helped open the White Mesa Mountain bike trail. He needs us to help him know what areas and trails we use, for us not to go where we are not supposed to, and write to Congress and BLM. Write Congress for BLM funds to purchase rights of way to access public lands. There is a lot of private land blocking access to BLM lands. John urges us to write personal letters, not a form letter, short and to the point. One Handwritten letter = 25 votes in Congress. The grazing culture is our biggest threat, as the ranchers see the use of public lands as their livelihood. Motorcyclists work hard for their areas and John is asking us to do the same. John would like us to take topo maps and GPS all roads and classify them. If we do this, we become BLM volunteers and it becomes a coordination effort, where we could go

out in large numbers without getting event permits. John wants to be shown the Jaws of Death trail and the Cimarron Mesa area to GPS them and find out about access. John's office is located at 425 Montano and he is usually in on Mondays. He needs input on other areas. The BLM is going to a "closed, unless designated open" policy. The only area near ABQ that is open to vehicular travel is near Placitas. The BLM's planned window for this resource management review is from now to 2011. They are modeling from what has been done in Socorro. Pat Brady asked for a show of hands for those who would volunteer to help log GPS tracks on the BLM Lands. Those people are noted in bold above in the meeting attendance section. The Tanners are requesting to make a run with someone so that they can learn how to use their GPS. John asked if any of us knew of the NM Trials Association. He suggests that this group could be a model for us in working with the BLM. They have a play area out by San Ysidro. We could have an area like that with his help. His superiors understand diverse use and are willing to receive input. Leon asked about GPS formatting. Must be Trimble system. Mark it on the map and he will have to re-verify anything that is not on a map to get it into the Trimble system.

Bob Telepak then reported on the Travel Management process with the Sandia District of the Cibola National Forest. Bob said that we are making progress. An ATV representative has been added to the group and one more public input meeting is in the works.

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

Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner: Laurye reported that she does not have anything to report because there have not been any runs. She asks for pictures from future runs (Wolfie's Saturday Snow Run, Chile Challenge, and Gordy's Hill trip are all coming up).

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Nothin'.

Old Business: Decals; Paul Thomson contacted Sign Crafters and they gave him a quote of \$350 for 100 decals like the ones that we have had before. The members voted to make this purchase. Paul stated that he would either make the purchase or hand it off to Jerry Marx, the Program Chairman.

Auge's 4x4 101 Status: Frank G. Whiston sent Robert Auge an email on January 12, 2007 asking him to look into the areas that he had suggested. If he could give us an idea for a route, the Trip Chairman would look into scheduling a pre-run. At the time of the meeting, there had been no response back from Robert Auge.

Wolfie mentioned that Joan had made the deposit to secure a spot for the club to have the July Meeting (7-14-07) at the Carolino Canyon Picnic Area off of Hwy 337 in the east mountains. Wolfie made a request on Joan's behalf for reimbursement for the \$25 deposit. Wolfie also brought up that the upfront cost for using this facility is \$200. \$175 is due later. After use, the club will be refunded the damage deposit. Last month, the dollar amount that we voted to spend will not cover the up-front costs. We voted to approve the total of \$200.

Tom Hurt asked if anyone had aluminum cans for him to collect. The money received for recycling is all donated to the club.

New Business: Lauri Rector received an email from outdoor club news (www.outdoorclubnews.com) offering a free listing & free link to our web site. Laurye Tanner said that she will look it up. Have a look at it and we will discuss the listing at next meeting.

Leon mentioned the Chile Challenge raffle...the club won a winch last year...would the club purchase tickets again this year? He named off some prizes like a set of BFG tires, Detroit locker, Richmond gear, Warn winch, Advance Adapters, AGR certificate, Klune-V certificate, and ratchet straps. Manufacturers want picture CD's...Leon wants good ones to send to vendors to put in their catalogs. Send them in!

Paul Thompson proposed that we sell the winch to recoup the cost of buying raffle tickets this year and donate extra proceeds. Leon suggested a separate raffle with \$50 tickets to win the winch. Cliff Meier offered to put it on EBay for the club. Phil Rodacy suggested a price of \$600. Based on the input, the President decided to conduct a member's-only raffle via e-mail, which Glenn Bontly volunteered to run. *(subject auction was conducted and the winch was sold to Dave Marks for \$650.*
-ed)

Jeff Rector made a motion to buy \$500 worth of Chile Challenge raffle tickets. The members voted and it passed.

Jerry Moran brought up the Copper Canyon, Mexico trip; he would like to do it. Cliff informed him that the trip already took place. Talk to Jerry if you would be interested in coordinating another trip in the future.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM. Thanks to Mary Turpin and girls for hosting!

Next month's meeting hosts: Jeff & Lauri Rector



President's Report

By Lauri Rector

In the past, I've written about the sport of four-wheeling, about involvement in the club and in the Travel Management process, and the trail rides themselves. But, in this past month, I've been "enlightened" on what is behind building a rig that will handle the BIG ROCKS.

As many of you know, my husband, Jeff, has put his camouflage out to pasture. We bought that Jeep new in 1984 and after 22 ½ years, the frame and body was extremely rusted and not too trustworthy. Several years ago we took the opportunity to buy a rust-free tub and frame from a fellow club member. Since that time, Jeff has been trying to decide when would be a good time to move all the guts from the old Jeep over to the new tub and frame. He also planned on converting his leaf spring suspension to coil springs, and has been closely studying everyone else's set up and how it works. Finally, last September he decided it was time. He started disassembling the old Jeep after the Gordy's Hill run at the end of the month. He then immediately began getting the frame and tub ready to start putting the equipment on it.

The original plan was that it would be done in time for the club's Thanksgiving run to Phoenix. Then it was suppose to be done in time for the Chile Challenge. Three weeks before the Chile Challenge, he tried to tell me that he had a "Plan B" because he wasn't going to get his Jeep done in time. I would not have any part of it. But, I did offer to help. I'm fairly good with a "rattle can" and felt I could help with the painting. What I was hoping was that I would be promoted to welder and/or the plasma cutter, but it never happened. I think that it had to do with the winch mount and that I would keep on trying to loosen up the impacted bolts with my bare hands.

After helping with the painting, I felt obligated to stay out in the garage with him as much as possible (even though I new I wouldn't get to weld or cut anything). Mark Werkmeister told me that I was giving moral support. I felt that I was a pain in the a\$\$\$. But I was so interested in what he was making, how he was making it, what tools he used, and how he used them. So I was right there every time he turned around – which he did a lot. He said that I was helpful; I don't see how. But at least he was nice enough to say so and it gave me a warm fuzzy feeling.

It was amazing to watch how quickly and deftly he made things for his Jeep. I never realized what effort it took and what all went into making these vehicles. Now, some guys reading this may think that I'm going overboard here, and maybe I am. But I really had no idea and was completely awed – for the first 4 or 5 days anyway. I admit that I was bored to tears by the last few hours before it became trail ready and we could finally leave for the Chile Challenge.

I would highly recommend to any wife/girlfriend/significant other of any four wheeler who works on or builds their own rig to go out and watch them and offer to help in some way for at least several hours, if not for a whole day – or many days. I think you may come away with a greater appreciation of what their rig means to them, and it may mean more to you too.

And the amazing thing is, the Jeep worked really good on the trail. There are many tweaks and fixes that still need to be done (heck, none of the gauges are even wired yet), but it was making it over the obstacles and nothing broke.

Now, I'm wondering if he'll show his appreciation by letting me drive it over an obstacle????

Sagebrush Flats Snow Run

By Mark Wolf

Saturday, February 10, 2007 six other vehicles and myself (with my companion for the day, Bryan MacCosbe) met at the Conoco station in Rio Rancho to go to Santa Fe for a day in the snow. The run had been canceled twice before due to inclement weather and we wanted to go play in the snow. Unfortunately, the week prior to the run had warmed up significantly, making for a partial MUD run. I hate mud, but the others were glad to get out for the day and so was I.

Members Mark Berglund (TJ with new Toyo Mud Tires!), Ed Kausche (TJ) and his friend Jaime Marez, Jim Farrell (Rubicon), Justin Simenson and Rebecca (Rubicon), and Bryan and myself in my Jeepster Commando met up with guests Mike and Nancy McIntyre (Rubicon), and Keith and Linda Jurey (TJ). John and Ruthie Baker (TJ) went to the wrong Conoco, but quickly found us as we headed out of Bernalillo towards I-25. The day was cool, but the sun was shining and it would be a good day. We held a short driver's meeting to be sure that everyone knew where we were going in case someone got separated from the group. Ed Kausche was nice enough to volunteer to take the tail-gunner position and he did a great job of keeping me informed all along the way.

We got to the trail head at about 10:00 AM and decided to stop along the roadway to air down our tires. The parking area we typically use to air down was looking like soft, gooey mud and no one wanted to dive in and then have to get out (or fall out!) and air their tires down. After we aired down a little up the road we headed into the Caja del Rio area and followed along USFS Route #24.

This route was mostly dry, but there were low places that held mud puddles and water. No one got stuck, but a few did some sliding around. We turned off on the road that leads to the trail head and this one was a lot muddier! Still no one got stuck, but they definitely got dirty! Ask Mr. Berglund

why it is we NEVER remove our window halves when we traverse mud! Once we got to the trailhead, I asked Justin to hold up the group until I could verify the gate was open ahead. Bryan and I headed up the road and the gate was open! We pulled into the trail and stopped and waited for everyone to catch up. After about 10 minutes, they all arrived and we headed down the trail.

The trail was actually snowy for the most part and I was glad of that. The only portion that was not snowy was the lower portion out in the flats where we turn north. We had left so early this time and with only 7 vehicles we were way ahead of schedule. We usually eat our lunch in this area, but not this time. I continued north along the route where it looked like only an ATV had traveled the trail. I suddenly came to a stop when I realized that the ATV must have gotten lost as I was sure the trail went left, not right as the ATV had gone. After verifying that the trail actually went left, we were on our way again. This is one of those areas where the snow started getting heavy again and I lost track of the trail. Without our GPS expert, Glenn, I would have to guess the correct route. I'm glad I did!

Everyone was doing very well and we were in the large valley before you knew it. That's not to say the hills weren't fun! I had some slipping and sliding going on and I think the others did too! No one got stuck as every vehicle was well equipped and the most they had to do was work at it a little. No big deal, just fun!! We all decided to stop for lunch in the big valley.

After about a half hour lunch break, we all loaded up and then headed up the big hill. I actually had to turn the ARB on as the hill was a little slick and the snow a little deep! It was fun! I never heard anyone call to say they were stuck; only that someone was having a little trouble. No tow straps were pulled out, but a couple of threats were thrown over the airways of the CB radio! It's like waving a pink strap in front of Jeff Rector! Suddenly, they have no trouble making the hill! The next hill was even more fun as the snow was a little deeper and the hill was steeper. I had to back up a couple of times, but I made it on my own power and I had fun! I think everyone else did too! From the time we left the ATV tracks to the last hill, the trail had not been traveled which made it more fun.

We were out of the trail and headed back to USFS Route #24 in no time. Someone called me to let me know that Ed Kausche had a flat tire. I waited a couple of seconds and Ed called me to confirm he would have to change it as it wouldn't hold air. I headed back to see if I could provide assistance. Teamwork had that tire changed in about 10 minutes and we were on our way. At County Road (#62), we refilled our tires with air before heading back to I-25. Some headed out early as they had other destinations in mind and some were a little quicker than others. I was the last to leave and it was only 3:00 PM.

It was a great run, even though we had to deal with mud! The vehicles were well-equipped and the drivers were experienced. That made for an enjoyable and uneventful event! However, we always welcome novice drivers to go along and observe experienced drivers and well-equipped vehicles to help them understand what it's all about. It also helps them to determine what changes they may want to make to their vehicles. You can buy a lot of products these days, but not all are necessary or useful. Hope to see both experienced and novices next time!

Apple vs. PC

By Justin Simenson

You might be wondering why I am writing about computers when we are a 4-wheeln' club, but lets face it; who reading this is NOT on a computer? Ok then . . .

Last year my company upgraded some of its computers and in turn we had some older computers that were left over. They were still good for home use, like surfing the club web site, so I snagged one. What I got was a computer made by a local company with an AMD processor and Windows 2000. Mostly I used it for storing pictures that I took on the trail, but I also used it for some school papers and playing music. I was happy with it until the end of October when it crashed and burned. Luckily I had been backing up all my files to an external hard drive. By this time I was committed to having a computer.

I started to look for a new computer. It didn't take long until I realized how many different brands of computers were out there: Dell, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Sony, Compaq, Acer, Toshiba, Apple, etc. With all of these choices overwhelming me, I stepped back and looked at what the real differences were. It really comes down to only two different types of computer operating systems to pick from, Apple or Windows (PC). So which one is better? To some it is like asking the Ford or Dodge question. We all know where that will take us. So I did some research on both and here is what I came up with:

Pros

Apple:

- Very user friendly
- Processes images a lot quicker than PC
- Easy photo editing and emailing
- Self manages file locations (can be modified easily)
- Very few viruses and spyware affect them

PC:

- Compatible with a lot more programs
- Available from many different companies
- GPS friendly
- Files created on your computer are compatible on more computers out there

Cons

Apple:

- Only one company makes them (this could also be a pro)
- Some files are not compatible with windows
- GPS's are difficult to use, if compatible at all
- The programs you are used to might not be available

PC:

- Photo processing is slow
- Vulnerable to viruses and spyware
- File management is poor
- Not many built-in programs

For me the choice was easy, Apple. I work on PC's at work and all the cons are easily overcome by that fact. I purchased a 20" iMac and have been very happy with it. Hopefully this will help someone that is at the same cross road I was at.

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.

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

If you are a member of our club and want to post pictures on Snapfish of our run here are some tips:

1. Save a set of pictures as your originals. Make changes on a second set.
2. Make your pictures at 72 resolutions - any more will just make the loading and viewing a lot longer.
3. Resize to 4 x 6. This also will make the viewing a lot faster.
4. After downloading to Snapfish, go back and find where you can share these photos and send their automatic email out to the club members to see the pictures you just put on Snapfish. If you do not click on "Share" no one will know you have posted some new pictures.
5. If you can not post your pictures on Snapfish, just bring your pictures on a CD and I will post them for you. Even if you posted your pictures on Snapfish, I still need a copy of your pictures on a CD for the club files. They can be a copy of your original pictures.



For Sale



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

Free Stuff: Jeep Cherokee donut spare (compact spare tire) with tan cover, and tan cargo area cover. Call Marcia Dugar at 505-850-7768.

Camping Stuff: Five tents in various sizes, stove, lantern, dining canopy, folding table. Reasonable prices. Details available upon request. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.

Genuine stock Jeep aluminum wheels from a 92 YJ: Very good condition. Set of five. \$200. 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, \$350 obo. Dana 35 rear end, complete drum-to-drum, 50K miles, stock with 3.07 gears, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, \$350 obo. Dana 30 Front Axle for TJ: Complete, 4.56 gears, ARB Air Locker. Opened up and all components checked and OK, \$750.00 obo. 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, \$250. 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.

For Additional Classified Ads,
please visit our web site at
www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm

Pictures from Las Cruces



Paul Thompson on the Amatista Ledges Trail



Robert Clark spots Paul through the Bath Tub



Former NM4W member, Robert Clark, drove to Las Cruces all the way from the San Francisco Bay area in his new Rubicon Unlimited



Robert's stock Unlimited is definitely not the Scrambler he's accustomed to driving. As a result, he got hung up on several obstacles during the day



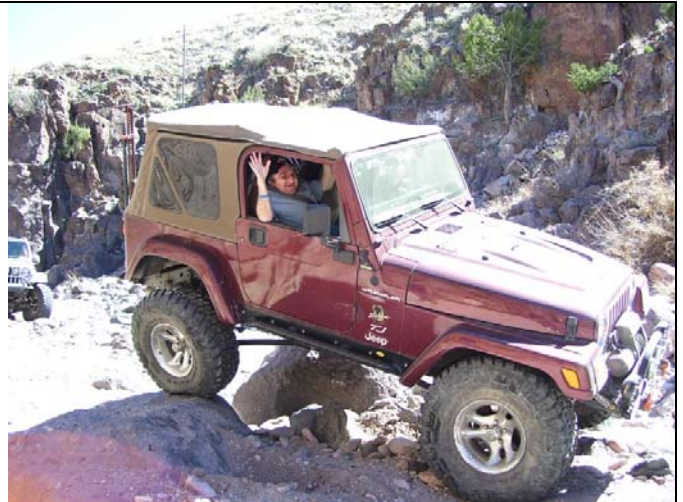
On Broad Canyon, the Pickle Barrel was almost completely filled in. Practically everyone just drove right up.



Of course, Glenn managed to slip off of the left side, but Jan seemed to take it all in stride.



Jan's son, Brandon, rode the Broad Canyon trail with Scott Thompson



Curtin Wilson was just having too much fun!



Tom Phillips sets up to climb the Snake Pit on Broad Canyon



The Snake Pit was another area that has become much easier over the past few years



Since the new Green Canyon trail was cancelled, some of us opted for the easy-rated Rustler's Fire trail, which turned out to be quite scenic



Scott Thompson on a portion of the Amatista Ledges trail

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.

Trail Tales on the Web Site: In a continuing effort help save natural resources and to control costs, you are encouraged to read the Trail Tales newsletter on the Club Web Site in lieu of receiving a hard copy in the mail. So if you want to help "save some trees", please send an e-mail to TrailTales@nm4w.org stating that you do not need to receive the hard copy of the newsletter. Thanks for your 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 **25th of the prior month**. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 11404 Ocoela Rd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Mar 1 – 4	Nat'l Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) - New Mexico Nat'l Forest (Cibola and Santa Fe) OHV Route Designation Workshop	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Mar 8	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-6547
TBD	Gordy's Hill Trip	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296

NM4W Officers

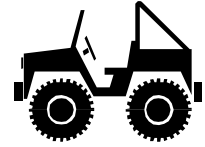
<p>President Lauri Rector 228-6547 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Beth Whiston 292-1541 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Paul Thompson 293-8396 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Jerry Marx 922-9370 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Laurye Tanner 281-0994 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
11404 Oceola Rd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87123





Trail Tales



April 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From March 8, 2006

by Beth Whiston



Meeting was held at Heights Cumberland Church. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Guests: Kenneth Gaw, Daniel Juarez, Jan & Tim Wanh, Tim Nash, Justin Allen, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ted & TJ Shibyale, Chad Walters.

Members Present: Joe Abbate, Glenn Bontly & Jan Montano, Pat & Sue Brady, Rance & Elizabeth Cochrane, Mike & Kristy Coe, Kevin Cox, Leon Duggar, Arne Gjerner, Erwin Greven, Tom Hurt, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavy, Jerry & Barbara Marx, Cliff Meier, Jerry & Mary Moran, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Mike Robertson & Kathy Wolf, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Stella Sierra, Justin Simenson, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Bob Telepak, Paul & Mary Thompson, Craig & Mary Turpin, Mark Werkmeister, 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: \$1,979.57. We are collecting aluminum cans tonight. Tom Hurt will take them to the recycler.

Vice President's Report – Mark Wolf: Points sheet is posted on the white board. You must have 5 points to be eligible for membership. Take a look and make sure you have received credit for runs that you have been on.

We had two runs that the Sheriff needs to collect fines for:

- The snow/mud run that Wolfie led on February 10th - Mark Berglund took doors off his Jeep and then had to drive in the mud! The Sheriff feels Mark was punished enough so he will not even be fined for that. Ed Kausche had a flat tire at the end of the trail. He received a .25 cent fine.
- Chile Challenge: Tom Hurt was fined for winning too many prizes and not showing up - .25! Pat Brady was caught on video showing extreme exhibition Hollywood style! He stood his Jeep up on the back wheels twice - .50! Jeff Rector showed up late and delivered the camping gear late to Justin. Jeff was supposed to be ready in time but did not get the Jeep to run until Thursday morning. Wolfie does give him credit for getting it to run. Frank G. Whiston was not having much success making it up an obstacle, after various tries he realized that the Jeep was not in 4WD! The worst of it was that while all of this was going on Kimberly was sitting in the backseat and it made her cry! For the rest of the day she continuously said "no more big rocks Daddy!" The Sherriff only fined Frank .50, but I (Kimberly's Mommy) feel it should have been more for scaring Kimberly. ☺ Jan got in

trouble with Glenn for sticking her hand out of the Jeep and trying to “hold it up” during an off-camber section of the trail. Lesson learned; no fine.

Trip Chairman’s Report – Frank G. Whiston:

Recent Runs:

- The snow/mud run that Wolfie led on February 10 was a lot of fun. Wolfie wrote about it in the February newsletter.
- Chile Challenge was fun!

Future Runs:

- 4X4 101 Status: Frank touched base with Robert Auge. Auge has been busy and has not really had time to look into things. Sounds like 4X4 101 is probably not going to happen.
- April 14th Monticello Canyon – Justin Simenson will be leading this trip. Contact him if you are interested!
- SWFWDA Spring Quarterly April 13-15 - The “SHO-ME ROCKS” event is being hosted by the Ozark Mountain 4X4 Club at the Southern Missouri Off-Road Ranch near Springfield, MO. More information can be found by visiting the following web sites:
www.ozarkmountain4x4club.com
www.offdranch.com
- Silver Mesa Ranch – Memorial Day run. This is limited to 40 vehicles, so act fast. Frank has information if you are interested.
- Frank asked if anybody had any ideas/thoughts for a Memorial Day run. Nobody said a word, so we’re guessing there are no ideas.
- Red River trip – Justin Simenson is interested in doing a Red River trail ride/fishing trip sometime in June or July.
- Zuni Mountains Campout and Trail Ride – Hosted by Jeeps West Club based in Gallup, NM, August 17th - 19th. Plan to arrive Friday evening and do a run on Saturday and return home on Sunday. Frank mentioned that Jeeps West is going to rent the Wildlife Assoc. building. He asked is the club is interested in sharing the rental cost with Jeeps West? Frank will get details and pass them along.
- Farmington May 4 & 5 - Wolfie and Mark W. will be leading a run to Farmington. Harold Off is willing to take the club out and do an “old fashion run.” There are many optional obstacles; this run will be suitable for small tires too. Mark Werkmeister will send out information about camping and motels.
- Mt. Blanca September 8 & 9 - Mark Werkmeister is leading this trip. Contact him for details.
- Gordy’s Hill – Werkmeister had a conflict with the March trip. Rescheduling was discussed, but no decision was made about a new date. The club is going to let it float for now. If anybody would like to set a date and lead let the club know.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister:

- Santa Fe National Forest Travel Management workshops: The meeting here in ABQ will be held at the same location. Everybody can attend - the more the merrier! They will give us feedback of what they think they heard at the last meeting; tell us what they are thinking, then take our input about what we think about what they are thinking. It gives us more time to work on the Citizen Alternative. You ***WILL*** receive points for attending these meetings! See the web site schedule for a list of all upcoming meetings (dates, times, locations, etc).
- Citizen Alternative: Back in October there was a mapping party at Werkmeister's house. Then the club went out and GPS'd some trails. We did a good job of capturing everything and made a list of important trails. What we have not done is marked down what those trail segments are and what they look like. Example: What do we mean by Holiday Mesa? Where is it? How do you get there? Mark brought the maps to the meeting and asked that people go up to the maps and trace the roads that take us to and from these trails in addition to the trails that we like to run. There are multiple routes to these trails. Please mark these routes after the meeting. What Mark will do then is put together a citizen's proposal and tell them why these trails are important to us. We will present this to them sometime around May 1st. Trace as carefully and exactly as you can. Don't just circle an area (like Wolfie did).
- Cibola Collaboration: Everything is going well. The people have steered the collaboration into a better direction. We are not a minority on the collaboration team anymore! There will be a public meeting coming up. There were 150 people at the last meeting! We want to keep that up. While at the NOHVCC workshop, Mark was able to spend some time with the forest service. This has been good for building a strong network.
- Thanks for the people who were able to show up at the NOHVCC meetings. There were great networking opportunities.
- April 7 is the NM Off Highway Alliance annual meeting. It will take place at R & S (Lomas where bridge crosses I-40) from 9 AM-noon.

Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx:

- Jerry explained the 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$1.00 a piece or 6 for \$5.00. If you are wearing club apparel they are 7 for \$5.00. The tickets are drawn at the end of the meeting.
- Club apparel is for sale as well as decals. The decals are \$5.00 a piece. Thank you Paul for picking them up!

Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner:

- If you have any pictures from club trips give Laurye a CD and she will place them on the internet. Laurye brought some albums for members to look at. She will also bring them to the next meeting.
- On August 8, 2007 the New Mexico 4-Wheelers club will be 50 years old! Originally the club was called the Albuquerque Jeep Herders. Wolfie is coming up with a celebration. He needs volunteers to help out!

Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: We still have a website and a newsletter.

Old Business:

- Decals have been picked up and are ready for sale! They are \$5.00 a piece.
- Laurye Tanner looked into the Outdoor Club News website. It sounds like there is a traveling team that will come to club events for free; they will distribute discounts at the event. Laurye visited the off-road clubs on the website – there are 33 clubs listed so far. If the NM4W's are interested there is a space to type things about the club. All free. Beth Whiston will try to put us on the web before the next meeting! www.outdoorclubnews.com
- Leon Duggar thanked everybody who helped with the raffle at the Chile Challenge. There were quite a few of you! Leon you did a great job! There was \$7500 worth of tickets sold this year. That is \$2000 less than last year. ☹️ Want to increase your odds of winning? Buy more tickets next year!

New Business:

- The winch that the club won in the 2006 Chile Challenge raffle was auctioned off for \$650.00 to Dave Marx. The club needs to decide what to do with the money. The club can hold on to the money for right now or donate it. Lauri Rector says it should be a club vote to hold onto the money for right now and asked if anybody has anything to say. There was no discussion; Lauri asked for a show of hands for opposed to holding on to the money – 6 opposed. All in favor of holding on to the money – 12 in favor. The money will be brought up as new business at the July meeting.
- Next month we will ask for volunteers to host summer club meetings. We only need hosts for May, June, and September. Please contact Beth Whiston if you are interested in hosting.
- The club will vote for officers at the July meeting. We need nominations by June meeting. Dues are due on August 1 – need to be paid by September 1st in order to avoid being dropped from the membership roster. Club dues are \$35 per family (this is enough to cover all other dues). There was a discussion about dues being raised because United and SW4WDA may be raising their club dues. We need exact numbers for United and SW dues to figure this out. We may need to increase dues. Mark Werkmeister will find out.
- SW4WDA needs a Program Chairman. They would like the person who fills this position to be able to attend the meetings. There are 4 meetings throughout the year. SW is also looking for a webmaster. They want somebody who is not a club member, but also friendly to off-road. Webmaster is a paid position.
- Ted Shibyale, (a guest) is a Police Officer in Rio Rancho, is looking for help picking up trash in Rio Rancho. He wants to know if there is a possibility that the NM4W's help out. It was brought up the club used to have some highway north of Bernalillo that they adopted. Unfortunately, it was always the same people picking up trash and the club eventually did not continue the service project.
- Justin Allen (another guest) is a volunteer with Search & Rescue. They are always looking for volunteers to help train dogs. They usually train in the foothills, parks, and picnic grounds. If anyone is interested in helping out the Sandia search dogs, you can go to the web site www.swcp.com/ssd. If anyone has any questions you can email Justin Allen at justinj_allen@yahoo.com.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13. Thank you to the Rectors for hosting!

50/50 drawing: There was \$89.00 in the 50/50. \$45 went to the club and \$44 to the Turpins! Rance Cochran and the Turpin family each won a hat. Money collected for sale of NM4W logo items: \$94.50



President's Report

By Lauri Rector

This will be short and sweet. I can't come up with any thoughts to share with anyone, unless you'd like to hear about insurance.

Just want to encourage you to go to any forest travel management meeting that you possibly can attend. Especially with the Santa Fe National Forest, as these will be the meetings that need as many voices as possible.

And, if you are wanting to run a trail, don't wait for someone else to lead. Take the initiative, be an instigator. Volunteer to lead one yourself!!! There are numerous people in the club who will be happy to take the #2 position and give you a helping hand.

Happy Spring to all and hoping to see everyone out on the trails over the next couple of months (as long as this insurance stuff doesn't get in my way).

Member Spotlight: The Craig & Mary Turpin Family

By Joan Wolf



"I started talking about Jeeps at age 5", says Mary Turpin, and at age 19 she bought an '81 CJ-7. Craig got his first 4WD vehicle during high school, a '73 Chevy Blazer full convertible. Later he acquired an '80 CJ-7. This "Jeep thing" makes it hard to admit that their Rubicon has become a temporary "lawn decoration". The Turpins did a lot of four-wheeling in Tucson (their hometown) when they were younger and single. But with jobs, home ownership, and two active girls (Hannah is 10, Alexandra is almost 7), Jeeping is taking a backseat for awhile.

Two years ago, Craig and Mary purchased a 50 year-old fixer-upper house on ½ acre in the North Valley. It's an awesome property, a mini-farm in the middle of the city. The neighborhood houses have front porches, expansive grass lawns, and tire swings dangling from huge cottonwood trees. They've spent countless hours painting, tiling, carpeting, and generally modernizing the house.

The house work was a necessity, but they'd rather spend time in the backyard and it's easy to see why. The yard includes a play area with trampoline and swing set, rose bushes, vegetable garden, 16 chickens, chicken coops, compost bin, and even an irrigation ditch. The yard looks wonderful, but they say it's a work in progress. On the afternoon I visited, Mary and Craig were using a pick and shovel to remove a concrete pad so they can enlarge the garden. They were pleased with their

progress until discovering an older 4” layer of concrete below the 3” top layer. But they took it in stride, “It’s a great workout and cheaper than the gym,” laughed Mary.

Craig says his four-day work week helps him juggle home responsibilities. He’s a school psychologist with the Magdalena Municipal School District where he serves 450 students, from pre-K through Grade 12. Fortunately, Craig likes highway driving and books-on-tape because it’s 110 miles one-way to Magdalena. He’s worked in large school districts previously and prefers the variety of duties that a small school district offers.

Mary runs a home-based business, “Info To Go”. It’s one of two companies in the U.S. that makes and distributes the plastic tubes that hold House for Sale flyers. A Tucson employee fabricates the tubes but Mary does everything else—taking orders, shipping, accounting, maintaining the website, etc. Historically, they’ve sold the tubes to Boards of Realtors in all the big cities. But the business is at a crossroads as they consider expanding into retail. Prior to running the business, Mary worked as a 4th grade teacher and a reading specialist.



Their 2003 Rubicon is “their first ever new vehicle”. When Craig spotted the Jeep Rubicon in a magazine, he knew it would be perfect to take the family on both highways and trails. He’s done some modifications: 2-1/2” suspension lift, 1” body lift, 33x12.5 tires, heavy-duty skid plate, full roll cage, rear bumper, and sway bar disconnects. Craig cut his mechanical teeth on muscle car restorations. “The crown jewel,” he beams, “was a ground-up restoration of a 1969 Firebird convertible that a

friend and I did in college.”

The Rubicon performed well at the two Chile Challenges they’ve attended. In 2006, the entire family was able to go. Three years ago, Mary and Xa (pronounced Zah and short for Alexandra) went by themselves. Dona Ana Moderate was the first time Mary had used the Rubi’s lockers, “It was a kick in the pants,” she remembers. They enjoy Las Cruces because the terrain is similar to that around Tucson.



Speaking of Tucson, Mary’s favorite trail is Chiva Falls, in the Rincon Mountain foothills east of Tucson. The trailhead was 30 minutes from their house, so they and friends often went on impromptu hot dog roasts and desert camping trips. Another special thing about Chiva Falls—the Turpins got engaged there. Craig’s favorite trail is “anything away from people”. He loves exploring new roads, and pre-children, he liked to go without a map and see where wandering would take him. Craig also enjoys two-wheel travel. In 2004, he took up bicycling and has done 100-mile rides including the Santa Fe Century.

Mary and Craig say that getting their girls to “buy in” to nature and the outdoors has been a big part of their parenting. The family has always gone to parks and on walks. As the girls have gotten older, they’ve branched out into hiking, backpacking, four-wheeling, and gardening. The Turpins also love socializing and often have dinner and game nights with friends.

Volunteerism is important to the family. They’ve helped with Red Cross, little league, and neighborhood events, and Mary is currently a PTA Treasurer. As chase crew members during

Balloon Fiesta, they even recruited NM4W'ers to take some pilots four-wheeling (the pilots loved it, but thought four-wheelers were crazy!).

After nine years, Craig and Mary recently "retired" from directing Camp Candlelight, a summer camp sponsored by the Epilepsy Foundation of Arizona. It was a 4-6 month commitment to stage a one-week summer camp for children with epilepsy. Mary wrote, "At the end of the week, you have taken some of the most sheltered and protected kids you'll ever meet and given them independence and self-confidence to last them a year, maybe a lifetime."



Animals are an integral part of the Turpin household. Their dogs are Miles, the elder statesman, and Buddy who Craig recently rescued from a Belen median. After having his broken leg set, Buddy is settling in nicely with the three cats. Their 16 "Heritage" chickens are breeds such as White-crested Polish, Americana, and White Cochin. They have beautiful fluffy crests, feathered feet, and colorful markings. Each chicken has a name and unique personality. And they're good layers.

Before moving to Albuquerque, the Turpins lived in Parker, Arizona where they had fun wheeling on old mining trails. They enjoyed the Parker 4Wheelers Club so much that they made sure Albuquerque had a club before deciding to move here. As three-year members of NM4W, they enjoy the variety of runs and the summer meetings at members' houses. As a parent, Craig appreciates knowing that no one is left behind on the trail should there be any vehicle problems. The Turpins hope that when the house and yard projects slow down, they can convert the Rubi's status from lawn decoration to trail runner. Ten-year-old Hannah is ready as she proclaims, "Jeeping is fun and cool and I like it!"

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

Put on your 'Meeting' Faces!

First of all, thank you to all the members who showed at the NOHVCC Workshop last month. Hopefully, you found it worth your time and effort to attend. I know some Forest Service personnel did. Some of them found it helpful enough that they showed up for ALL FOUR DAYS! Having a common understanding of the Travel Management Rule can only be beneficial for both the agency personnel and the motorized enthusiasts!

By now, all of you should have received numerous notices for the next round of Santa Fe National Forest Meetings. In case you have not, here is the list again:

- **Pecos**, March 20, 6:00-8:00 PM, LifeWay Glorieta Conference Center, Room L, 505-757-6121
- **Las Vegas**, March 21, 6:00-8:00 PM, New Mexico Highlands University, South Kennedy Hall, 505-425-3535
- **Mora**, March 22, 6:00-8:00 PM, Mora Middle School Gymnasium, 505-425-3535

- **Santa Fe**, March 27, 6:30-8:30 PM, Unitarian Universalist Church, 107 W. Barcelona, Santa Fe, 505-438-7840
- **Los Alamos**, March 28, 6:00-8:00 PM, Fuller Lodge, 2132 Central Ave., Los Alamos, 505-753-7331
- **Española**, March 29, 6:00-8:00 PM, Northern New Mexico Community College, AD Room 101 & 102, 505-753-7331
- **Coyote**, April 24, 6:00-8:00 PM, Coyote Ranger District, Off NM 96, 505-638-5526
- **Cuba**, April 25, 6:00-8:00 PM, Cuba Senior Center, 16A Codova St., Cuba, 505-289-3264
- **Jemez**, April 26, 6:00-8:00 PM, Walatowa Visitor Center, 7413 Hwy 4, Jemez Pueblo, 505-829-3535
- **Albuquerque**, May 3, 6:00-8:00 PM, UNM Conference Center, 1634 University Blvd. NE, 505-438-7840

It is certainly not required for you to attend all of the meetings as the material covered in the individual meetings will be, for the most part, the same. So why should we make an attempt to attend more than one? It is simple. Every meeting attended is an opportunity to better understand the Forest Personnel and for them to understand us. While the material covered in each meeting might be the same, the conversations and individuals involved will not be the same, and there is much to learn! It is my personal challenge to each and every one of you who has ever recreated in the Santa Fe National Forest, or plans to do so in the future, to **attend at least one** of the upcoming Round 2 Workshops. And all of motorized recreation will be indebted to you if you can attend more than one. Remember, each time you show up, you are helping to shape the perception the Forest Service has of who we are and why motorized recreation is important to us.

In the very same vein, the other local Forest (the Cibola) is having another public meeting on the Travel Management Rule as it pertains to the Sandia Ranger District. The huge turnout of enthusiasts at the last public meeting really opened their eyes and helped influence the process they have been using to identify routes that will stay open. The tentative date for the next meeting is May 8th. Please put this on your calendars. We are looking for another big turnout at the meeting as it will be an important opportunity to let them know how you think the process is going.

Again, thanks to everyone who has been showing up at the meetings, being involved, and helping make sure that the Forest Service hears us.

Mark
 NM4W - Director of Environmental Affairs

<p>Chile Challenge First Timer By Paul Caskey</p>

The trail descriptions came down the wire and I had one thought: With the environmentalist threat looming, if this was to be my first and last Chile Challenge, it was going to be a good one. I started dialing Desert Rat. This was what tax refunds are for!



I carefully made my preferred trail choices on the registration form: One Easy; one Moderate; one Hard. Then it was a last minute operation at the shop, so I had to choose carefully from a menu of readily available upgrades for my YJ 33-incher. Nearly two weeks later, it returned with a rear locker and other goodies after many laughs from Murphy and his Law.

I then had 24 hours to sleep, work, pack, get from Albuquerque to Las Cruces, and put 500 miles on new gears without melting them. It was a slow journey down back roads with frequent stops. Getting lost was an advantage - more break-in miles! I arrived in Cruces at an eyelid-challenging 1:30 AM. A hotel parking lot full of custom 4x4's told me I was in the right place.

Despite my loathing of mornings, I was up at 6 AM and excited to get started. I met some veterans at breakfast who clued me in. I got my trail assignments at the Fairgrounds, and before long was headed to Box Canyon for my "Easy" warm-up run. At the trail head, I had 396 miles on my "new gear" trip odometer. Close enough!

That first day was social and scenic, including a detour to watch a guy attempt an 8-foot waterfall in his custom rig with 38-inch tires. "Maybe next year," I thought humorously, snapping pictures. He smashed his passenger door on the rock and retreated.



Our Easy day ended with an optional scramble up a tall sandy hill. My third try was the charm.

My second day was Upper Broad Canyon (Moderate). I caught a lucky break for traveling alone: the trail boss had no rig and rode with me. I learned tips as he guided us through the "playground" river bed. He confessed a fear of off-camber work, so I took every opportunity to go sideways. "You could at least stop putting me on the downside!" he shouted over the wind.

I picked lines in that canyon that pushed my skills, but avoided the big obstacles which were chewing up beefier rigs than mine. I thought I'd be happy with just one locker for a year. Strike that: 1.5 days.



My last day was Dona Ana. Only two of us signed up for Moderate, so we were merged into the Hard run. I gulped and figured this would be the christening day for my winch. But I held my own and had a blast.

My Moderate cohort didn't fare so well in his shiny Hummer H2 with tinted glass and no CB radio. I watched as he climbed, struggled, turned, teetered, and almost rolled back down the first hill of the day. He somehow managed to snap a front axle u-joint and tie rod in the process. An hour later, he was limping home after someone with a 24v portable welder, and someone else with a 24v Mercedes Unimog, combined forces to mend his wounds.

It was a day of slowly ratcheting like a roller coaster up daunting solid rock inclines, twisting blindly over car-sized boulders at the top (trusting the trail boss to spot), and maneuvering down descents like the "Alpine Slide" with its loose rocks and a pitch threatening to lift rear tires off the ground. I'll never forget the leader's advice: "The throttle is your friend!"

No winches were used, but my underbelly skid plate was deflowered. I was ready for more as the day ended. But the delicious dinner and raffle that night was the end of my Chile Challenge vacation. I grabbed a [Blue Ribbon Coalition](#) brochure and have homework to call my congressman. If we can save our trails and the Chile runs are open again next year, I'll be there. With a second locker!

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.

If you are a member of our club and want to post pictures on Snapfish of our run, here are some tips:

- Save a set of pictures as your originals. Make changes on a second set.
- Make your pictures at 72 resolution - any more will just make the loading and viewing a lot longer.
- Resize to 4 x 6. This also will make the viewing a lot faster.
- After downloading to Snapfish, go back and find where you can share these photos and send their automatic email out to the club members to see the pictures you just put on Snapfish. If you do not click on "Share", no one will know you have posted some new pictures.
- If you cannot post your pictures on Snapfish, just bring your pictures on a CD and I will post them for you. Even if you posted your pictures on Snapfish, I still need a copy of your pictures on a CD for the club files. They can be a copy of your original pictures.



For Sale



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

Free Stuff: Jeep Cherokee donut spare (compact spare tire) with tan cover, and tan cargo area cover. Call Marcia Duggar at 505-850-7768.

Camping Stuff: Five tents in various sizes, stove, lantern, dining canopy, folding table. Reasonable prices. Details available upon request. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.

Genuine stock Jeep aluminum wheels from a 92 YJ: Very good condition. Set of five. \$200. Call Dan Pritchard at 505-293-5297.

Jeep TJ Drivetrain Stuff: Prices Reduced! Model 231 transfer case, 50K miles, stock, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, ~~\$350~~ \$250 obo. Dana 35 rear end, complete drum-to-drum, 50K miles, stock with 3.07 gears, perfect, from 98 Wrangler, ~~\$350~~ \$250 obo. Dana 30 front end, complete, 4.56 gears, ARB Air Locker, opened up and all components checked and OK. Asking ~~\$750~~ \$600 obo. 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, ~~\$250~~ \$150. Warn Engine Skid Plate for TJ Wrangler, fits short arm suspensions, new in box, never used, complete with all hardware and instructions, ~~\$100~~ \$75. Call Mike Coe at 505-896-1658.

For Additional Classified Ads,
 please visit our web site at
www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm

Club Notes

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

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

Trail Tales on the Web Site: In a continuing effort help save natural resources and to control costs, you are encouraged to read the Trail Tales newsletter on the Club Web Site in lieu of receiving a hard copy in the mail. So if you want to help “save some trees”, please send an e-mail to TrailTales@nm4w.org stating that you do not need to receive the hard copy of the newsletter. Thanks for your 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 **25th of the prior month**. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 11404 Ocoola Rd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123.

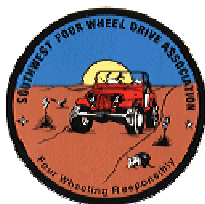
Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Apr 7	NM Off Highway Vehicle Alliance Annual Meeting	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Apr 12	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-6547
Apr 14	Monticello Canyon Trail	Call Justin Simenson	505-299-6982
Apr 24	SFNF Travel Mgmt Workshop—Coyote	Coyote Ranger District	505-638-5526
Apr 25	SFNF Travel Mgmt Workshop—Cuba	Cuba Senior Center	505-289-3264
Apr 26	SFNF Travel Mgmt Workshop—Jemez	Walatowa Visitor’s Center	505-829-3535

NM4W Officers

<p>President Lauri Rector 228-6547 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Beth Whiston 292-1541 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Paul Thompson 293-8396 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Jerry Marx 922-9370 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Laurye Tanner 281-0994 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
11404 Oceola Rd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87123





Trail Tales



May 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From April 12, 2006

by Beth Whiston



Meeting was held at Heights Cumberland Church. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Guests: Keith & Linda Jurey, Mick Vandre, Dennis Wong, Kenneth Gaw, Tim & Pat Nash, Edward Glenn, Eric Garcia, Justin Allen, Jan Waugh.

Members Present: Joe Abbate, Mark Berglund, Glenn Bontly & Jan Montano, Pat & Sue Brady, Rance Cochrane, Mike Coe, Kevin Cox, Leon Duggar, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Tom Hurt, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Tony Lauderbough, Dave Marks, Cliff Meier, Don Miller, Jerry, & Mary Moran, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Mike Robertson & Kathy Wolf, Paul & Mary Thompson, Mark Werkmeister, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

Secretary's Report – Beth Whiston: There was a mistake in the minutes. The 50th Anniversary for the NM4W's will take place in 2008 not 2007.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson: \$2,025.68 is the balance.

Vice President's Report – Mark Wolf: Check your points list to make sure your points are correct. If you went to a Forest Service meeting that Wolfie does not know about (round 2), let him know so you can receive credit.

Trip Chairman's Report – Frank Whiston: We have not had any runs since the last meeting.

- Montecello Canyon April 14th – Justin Simenson is the contact. He plans to meet at the T or C Chevron Station at 10AM.
- Gordy's Hill April 14 & 15 - Jeff Rector is contact. If you can keep up with Jeff, you are welcome to go.
- Moab Trip – Mike Coe has cancelled this trip.
- Farmington Run May 5th - Mark Werkmeister is the contact. This is designed as a non-extreme 'fun tour' of the sandstone fun to be had in Chokecherry Canyon/The Glade on the outskirts of Farmington. Mark will be bringing his Scrambler instead of the big rock-crawler. Even stock/near stock vehicles can have fun in Farmington! We will meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday at San Juan Community College (directions were sent out in email). Mom and Pop's RV ((505) 327-3200) is the typical place to stay for campers. Harold Off is usually open to going out again on Sunday if people show interest.

- Red River trip in June or July – Justin Simenson heard rumors that Middle Fork is closed; he will call the forest service for more information.
- All-4-Fun – July 28-August 3. There are a few club members participating this year; Frank G. figures it qualifies to be an official club run. The registration is still open.
- Zuni Trip August 17-19 – Frank G. is the contact. This will be an overnight campout and trail ride in the Zuni Mountains with Jeeps West of Gallup, NM. Frank now has contact information for the Jeeps West event coordinator – he contacted the coordinator about possibly splitting the rental fee for the Wildlife association facility. Frank has not heard anything back.
- Mt. Blanca September 8 & 9 – Mark Werkmeister is the contact.
- Canyon Lands October 2-7 – Frank G. Whiston is the contact. Let Frank G. know if you are interested.
- Memorial Day – Paul Thompson is contact. He is planning on camping in the usual spot near Porter Landing in the Jemez over Memorial Day weekend.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister:

- Santa Fe NF – 2nd round of the workshop going on. May 3rd workshop is here in ABQ (Continuing Ed. building @ UNM). It is important that people continue to show up and show interest. There is another round of workshops in June that will have more “meat” to them. Wolfie went to round 2 and he says that we definitely need to make it to round 3! Though, it is important to for a NM4W presence at all the workshops. It was suggested that each club member should try to attend at least one round 2 workshop, even if you only stay a half hour. Show up in force for the May 3 meeting!
- Cibola NF – They are doing this ranger district-by-ranger district. Sandia is happening right now. There is not much 4-wheeling in Sandia, but it is important to focus on this. This can have a lot of influence on other meetings. They are having public meetings with quite a lot of people showing up (many motorized recreationists). There will be meetings held on May 8th, 6-9PM at Continuing Ed. @ UNM and May 9th in Tijeras. It is very important if you can show up to at least one of these meetings. These meetings are more interactive; they have you mark up maps. There is an area up to the North of Cibola that we think may have some good rock crawling (La Madera area) there is two track and single track out there and an opportunity for a whole lot more. It’s in the back and out of the way.
- Santa Fe NF Citizen’s Proposal – Mark Werkmeister has been working hard on this, it’s about 90% done. He still needs some input about trails in the Jemez, especially people who frequent the Jemez. This includes main roads too. Some of the information is incomplete, there are some fill in the blanks. Glenn will post the Draft Citizen’s Proposal on the Members Only page as a PDF file. Mark asks that club members please view it and then submit any trail descriptions, trail ratings, proofreading, or general input. Anecdotal information is good too. He placed photos in the document and requests that members send him any recent photos. Mark does not want this document to get out to the FS yet. He will present it to Rob Potts on May 3.

- Gordy's Hill – The Draft Resource Management Plan for the Socorro office is at the printer. It is not out on the streets yet (*Note: The Draft Resource Management Plan has become available to the public since the 4/12 club meeting*).
- There was a meeting on Saturday, April 7 that John Hawkos showed up for; they are getting ready to re-write the resource management plan for the Rio Puerco. They are looking for input. As soon as we finish the mapping for the FS we need to switch gears and map a different area to help keep those trails.

Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx: Not present. No 50/50 raffle or club apparel sold.

Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner: Not present.

Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Nothing.

Old Business:

- OutdoorNews.com – Beth Whiston will have club information up on the website very soon (*Note: as of 4/13 the NM4W's are now listed on www.outdoornews.com*).
- Summer Meeting Hosts - We need hosts for the summer meetings. Lauri asked for any volunteers and we were able to find a host for each month during the summer meetings! The hosts/meeting dates are:
 - May 19th: Mark Werkmeister. He will supply burgers/dogs and grill.
 - June 16th: Pat & Sue Brady
 - July 14th: Carolino Canyon Picnic Area
 - August 10th: Mary & Craig Turpin
 - September 15th: Rance Cochrane

Thank you in advance to all of you who volunteered to host!
- New Officers – Club members will vote on new officers in July.
- Club Dues - Club dues are due by August 1st. Dues will not be raised at this time.

New Business:

- NMOHVA – Laurye Rector went to a meeting on Saturday 4/7. She thought it would be good for the NM4W's to become members. It is \$100/year for club membership. Wolfie made a motion that the NM4W join as members of NMOHVA. Some questions that were asked:
 - What are the benefits of becoming members?* The benefits are very little; it does add more names to the rosters and makes them that much bigger an organization when they go to State. Long term the idea is to continue to grow the cooperation between groups in NM.
 - Is there any potential for conflict of interest between groups?* No. The club bylaws require a 4-wheeler on the board. There are times that there is some conflict but it is usually between single track and ATV people.
 - Will we be responsible for anything in the organization?* No. It's just a way to lend more weight to the voice.

All were in favor of becoming members. Paul will write a check for \$100.00 and Lauri will fill out the application, then mail with check. Wolfie strongly encourages everybody to join as individual members. It runs about \$20.00/year. They have a website: www.nmohva.org.

- Chile Challenge Prizes – Leon Duggar has the prizes that the NM4W’s won at the Chile Challenge. The club voted to auction the prizes off. Wolfie suggested that we auction the items on the website. Glenn will post the items on the Member’s Only page. People can bid on it via email/phone call. Wolfie will be the contact point for it. The bids will be completed at the July meeting. Bids begin next week and Wolfie will come up with a closing date. Leon suggests making a public notice when the auction will take place – some people did not receive the winch auction notice through email.
- Justin Simenson received something in the mail about the Continental Divide trail (hiking trail). They are looking for volunteers for help build the trails. See Justin if you are interested in this information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01

Winner of the 50/50 drawing: no 50/50 drawing

Money collected for sale of NM4W logo items: Program Chair not present.



President’s Report
By Lauri Rector

This President’s Report is not in error. This is the report that I actually typed and I believe emailed to Glenn for the Dec 06 Issue, but he said he didn’t get it – I’m sure that it was errors from the sender’s end. But, since this time, our awesome Editor calls me each month because I can’t get my report to him by the 25th and he doesn’t want to chance missing an email from me again. But, tonight he reminded me that he had missed this one email from Dec; that I may or may not have sent. That got me to thinking, OMG, the club never got to read this report, I’ll just send Glenn this one for the May Trail Tales. So sit back and try to picture that it is December 1st

PRESIDENTS REPORT
By Lauri Rector

Happy Holidays

Here is another chance for you to read about the thoughts that have been bouncing around in my little brain when I’m not thinking about all of the things I need to do. I just read Mark Werkmeister’s email about the recent public meetings for the Santa Fe Forest. Please try to fill out their questionnaire before the Christmas Party and bring it with you so that Mark can mail it in for you. Also, please give serious consideration to help out with the Citizens Action (sure hope that I’m not too far off on that). I have a gut feeling that this will be an extremely important part in getting serious consideration on the trails that we want to keep open. I also think that a lot of thought and very well chosen wording will need to be applied. I know that our club has a variable plethora of word smiths in its members.

Can you believe that this is our December issue of Trail Tails? Christmas time seems to always be so busy. One thing in my favor is that Jeff is real busy with his Jeep and not under my feet as much. But the club has some fun stuff coming up between now and then – guess we’ll have to do them in my Jeep. Be sure to check out the event schedule so you don’t miss

any of the events. My plans are to start the Holiday's by going on the AZ trip and extending my Thanksgiving weekend by 2 extra days (woo-hoo!!!). Hopefully I will be recharged when I get back. But, in my old age, I'm finding I come back pretty much exhausted. But, the club has a great event planned to end the Holiday season - the 2nd Annual New Mexico 4-Wheelers Rock'n' New Year's Eve Bash – or something like that. It's a great way to bring in the New Year. Then, before we know it, it will be CHILE CHALLENGE time. Which reminds me – buy raffle tickets from Leon at the Christmas Party and be looking for the registration which should become available in the next few weeks. That's all until next month. See you all soon.

Now didn't that bring back the Holiday spirit? Hope all of you are planning to get out there and join in on some of the trail rides in May. Also, attend any and all forest meetings that you can – we need to keep the momentum going!!! We've gained a lot of ground of getting the FS to hear us and getting their attention and their ear, we can't afford to let up at this point.

HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO

Monticello Canyon Trip

By Justin Simenson

The alarm went off early (before 5:00 am) for a Saturday. I made some coffee to start the day and then packed a lunch. We were out of the door by 6:30 and in search for some breakfast. We stopped by Blakes Lottaburger but no luck, same at Garcia's Kitchen, but luck was on our side with our third stop. We topped off the tank and made it to the Target parking lot before 7:00 am. We waited 9 minutes past and no one showed up so we hit the freeway for the long trip south.



Making only one stop at a rest area, we reached T or C by 9:45. We weren't the first ones there, Alex Himes (Cherokee w/ 33's) was waiting. Not long after me, Jerry & Mary Moran (Unlimited Rubicon) made it. Justin Allen (Military Chevy truck) was the last to join us. We all topped off with fuel one last time and headed to the trail. We stopped in the plaza of Monticello to air down, I think Jerry was the only one to air down (he wanted to play with his new York compressor).



At about 11:00 I hopped into the passenger seat with my camera and let Rebecca do the driving. We headed up through the canyon without a hitch. The recent rain & snow were apparent in the stream, with the water level a couple of inches higher than a couple of weeks ago. We stopped 3 or four times to enjoy the scenery of the canyon.

We made it through the Box by 2:00 and decided to try to find the ponds that are around there. Following Wolfie's advice, we hiked along a stream and surprisingly found the pond. The decision was made that we needed more fun. None of us were ready to take a paved road home so I suggested a forest road I noticed when I pre-ran the trail. It cuts from HWY 52 through the Cibola National Forest to HWY 60. Everyone seemed ready for an unimproved forest road.



Taking the wheel, I lead the group along HWY 52 to forest road 549. After almost missing the turn, yes Wolfie “almost” -- no u-turn was taken, we headed into the forest. The road was well graded and I thought it was going to let us down, but it then turned rocky and then muddy. We stopped at Bear Trap Campground to use their facilities and to look at the map one more time. Mt. Withington lookout was only a 4 mile side trip from the campground so we decided to take a look.

About 3 ½ miles up the road, the tracks we were following stopped and turned around. The road turned along a north face and the snow was piled up. After about a quarter of a mile of it there was a narrow spot in the road. I made it through, but Justin Allen’s heavy truck had problems. Gravity seemed to like that truck as it pulled him closer to the edge of the road every time he tried to move forward or back. He quickly stopped, then shut his truck off so we could assess the situation. As we tossed out ideas, a Chevy Tahoe packing 7 or so people came around the corner. One of them hopped out and helped us. We ended up hooking the winch to him via a snatch block tied to a tree. With the added pull of the winch, he was able to back up from the corner. It was past 4:00 so we decided to get off the mountain. I pulled forward to a wide spot where the Tahoe was waiting and turned around. The other three backed down to a wide spot. We made it to HWY 60 at around 6:00 or so and headed home. Mt. Withington will have to wait, maybe this summer.



From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

Wow! Another monthly report already.....lets see.....something interesting this time....how about information on some agency *meetings*? I know, I know, you are (rightly) tired of hearing about some meeting to attend. But that is one of the ways the greenies win! They are persistent, they are patient, and they just keep pushing. We can learn a lot about success in agency influence by watching our opponents and using their techniques. And Technique #1 is that **THEY SHOW UP!** Here are the key meetings that I know of for the coming month:

- **May 3:** Santa Fe National Forest Travel Management Workshop #2 in Albuquerque, 6:00-8:00 p.m., UNM Conference Center, 1634 University Blvd. NE

During Phase II, the workshops Forest Service Staff will follow-up with interested citizens, present analysis of comments received to date, including citizen proposals to designate or restrict access to specific Forest roads, trails and areas in the context of ecological, social, and economic sustainability.

- **May 8 – 9:** The Cibola National Forest is hosting two Public Workshops to address Travel Management on the Sandia District. The identical workshops are scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 6-9 p.m. at the UNM Continuing Education Conference Center (North Building), Rooms B and C, 1634 University Blvd NE (just east of Indian School) and Wednesday, May 9, 6-9 p.m. at the Los Vecinos Community Center in Tijeras.

Participants will build upon information from two previous public workshops, and from meetings of the Sandia Travel Management Work Group and Forest Service interdisciplinary team. Interested citizens

do not need to have attended previous workshops in order to participate. Workshop participants will review and comment on preliminary route designations developed by the Sandia Travel Work Group. Participants will also have an opportunity to add routes that they would like to see considered for inclusion in a motorized system for the Sandia Ranger District.

See? That wasn't so bad, was it? Only TWO meetings this month....

In other news, I will be meeting with the Jemez District about 4WD routes on that particular district this Friday (April 27th). This is the same meeting that I talked about at the last club meeting but it has been re-scheduled several times.

The draft Resource Management Plan for the BLM Socorro Office is out for public comment. The document is available online at <http://www.blm.gov/nm/st/en.html>. **This Plan is the document that formally establishes Gordy's Hill as an OHV area** and creates the management plan for the OHV area as a top planning priority for the office. And guess what?!? Gordy's Hill, at over 7000 acres, is actually in the PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE! It is vitally important that we weigh in on this Management Plan in support of the Preferred Alternative.

The document is large (500 pages, with another 150 pages of various appendices), but it is important that we provide 'input' to the BLM as I am sure the opponents of motorized recreation will be doing so. I will review it in detail and will be providing the club some talking points at a later date. The deadline for input is on or around the end of July. In conjunction with the public comment period, the office will be holding a **public meeting** (I know, I know!) on **May 22 in the Socorro office of the BLM**.

And finally, the New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance (NMOHVA) has already met with the Mt. Taylor Ranger District of the Cibola to start talking about the Travel Management Planning for that District. While the formal process won't start until sometime in '08, NMOHVA wanted to get an early start on the trail/route inventory process. You all know how problematic the 'mapping' has been on previous Forest efforts! This is our opportunity to work early on in the process with the Forest to see what they already have mapped, what they think they still need, and how we can help. The District Ranger seems very open to motorized recreation, so we need to show them that we care about the opportunities in that District! I am looking for someone from the club to step up and take the lead in coordinating the NM4W effort to identify 4WD routes. Any takers?

Your DEA,
Mark

From the Historian

By Laurye Tanner

We are now on the Outdoor Club News web site at <http://www.outdoorclubnews.com/index.cfm>. You can find us by clicking on **Off-Roading Clubs**. Then click on **4 X 4 clubs**. Then you will find our club name, **New Mexico 4 Wheelers/ NM**.

You can still view slide shows of our runs on the Internet. The current link is http://www1.snapfish.com/home/t_30021019. If you do not want to personally register with Snapfish, you can use nm4wphotos@earthlink.net as your login, and jeepers as your password.

If you are a member of our club and want to post pictures on Snapfish, here are some tips:

1. Save a set of pictures as your originals. Make changes on a second set.

2. Make your pictures at 72 resolutions - any more will just make the loading and viewing a lot longer.
3. Resize to 4 x 6. This also will make the viewing a lot faster.
4. After downloading to Snapfish, go back and find where you can share these photos and send their automatic email out to the club members to see the pictures. If you do not click on "Share", no one will know you have posted new pictures.
5. If you cannot post your pictures on Snapfish, just bring your pictures on a CD and I will post them for you. Even if you posted your pictures on Snapfish, I still need a copy of your pictures on a CD for the club files. They can be a copy of your original pictures.

Future Chic Challenge Participant

By Anna Duggar





For Sale



Tires & Rims: Used 15x10" Aluminum Rims: \$200 takes this entire set of 5 wheels in great condition from a Jeep YJ. Bolt pattern 5 on 4.5". **Used Tires with good tread.** Pick up one of these used BFG 33x12.5" AT's as a cheap spare: \$20 each. Call Paul Caskey at 505-796-4396.

For Additional Classified Ads,
please visit our web site at
www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm

Club Notes

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

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

Trail Tales on the Web Site: In a continuing effort help save natural resources and to control costs, you are encouraged to read the Trail Tales newsletter on the Club Web Site in lieu of receiving a hard copy in the mail. So if you want to help "save some trees", please send an e-mail to TrailTales@nm4w.org stating that you do not need to receive the hard copy of the newsletter. Thanks for your 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 **25th of the prior month**. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
May 3	SFNF Travel Mgmt Workshop— Albuquerque	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
May 5	Farmington Trip	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
May 19	Club Meeting at the Werkmeister's	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
May 26-28	Memorial Day in the Jemez	Call Paul Thompson	505-293-8390
Jun 16	Club Meeting at the Brady's	Call Pat & Sue Brady	505-898-6449
Jul 14	Club Meeting at Carolina Canyon Park	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-6547

NM4W Officers

<p>President Lauri Rector 228-6547 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Beth Whiston 292-1541 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Paul Thompson 293-8396 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Jerry Marx 922-9370 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Laurye Tanner 281-0994 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
31 La Mirada Rd
Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



June 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From May 19, 2006
by Beth Whiston



Meeting was held at the home of Mark Werkmeister. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Guests: Keith & Linda Jurey, Eric Garcia, Tim & Pat Nash, Brandon & Tammy Roby.

Members Present: Mark & Maria Berglund, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul Casky, Rance & Elizabeth Cochrane, Mike & Kristy Coe, Leon & Marcia Duggar, Tom Hurt, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Jason & Sara Lavy, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Justin Simenson, Paul & Mary Thompson, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

Secretary's Report – Beth Whiston: I need to ask the Sheriff if there is a fine for not signing in at the meeting...OOPS! The Sheriff did not sign in either. Hmm... I was nice enough to mark those that I remembered being present. Please remember to ask around for the sign-in sheet at the next meeting or you're in BIG trouble. ☺

Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson: \$1854.08

Vice President's Report – Mark Wolf:

Fines from Farmington:

- Phil Rodacy - Had a flat tire in the parking lot before the run! 25¢
- Cliff Meier – Flew into a tree, created environmental damage! 25¢
- Jeff Rector – At one point he did not put the Jeep into 4WD. 25¢
- Werkmeister- He brought the lousy weather! 25¢
- Leon Duggar – Brought a Bronco to a Jeep run. Did everything easily; the Sheriff let it slide.
- Pat Brady – He never showed up! Sheriff accused him of being a weather wuss! 25¢

Trip Chairman's Report – Frank Whiston:

- Farmington trip – Good time despite the weather. Thanks Harold Off for the great wheelin'.
- Upcoming Trips – Nothing on the calendar for June/July.
- Memorial Day - Jemez. Paul Thompson is the contact. He is heading up Friday and plans to be there at noon. The group will go out Saturday & Sunday leaving at 9:00. There will be a potluck on Saturday night.
- All-4-Fun – July 28 - August 3. The website has events schedule and they are still accepting reservations.

- Zuni Mountains – August 17, 18, 19; Jeeps West club of Gallup will be hosting us in the Zuni mountains. They have reserved the Wildlife building and will be having a raffle. Frank G. suggested we offer to help them pay for the facility but, they said we are their guests and it's covered. The club should submit some items for the raffle.
- Mt. Blanca September 8 & 9 – Mark Werkmeister is the contact.
- Canyon Lands October 2-7 – Frank G. Whiston is the contact. Let Frank G. know if you are interested.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister:

- The Gordy's Hill Draft resource management plan is now available for viewing. We have until the 16th of July to send in comments. Gordy's Hill is in the preferred alternative. The resource management plan will establish Gordy's Hill. Looks like it will be designated, but we need to do everything we can to get comments put in. Please send letters in – don't wait until the last minute. The 22nd is a meeting in Socorro where you can give your comments. The Resource management plan covers all of Socorro area; it's bigger than Gordy's Hill.
- Cibola NF is still going through travel management planning. They are just about wrapped up with the preplanning stage. There is a remote unit of Cibola that has some good rock crawling potential. If you are interested in creating some new rock crawling that's the place to go.
- Santa Fe NF – Citizen's Alternative was submitted and it made a good impression. At the next workshop they will have a map that they will be seeking comment on. They invited the NM4W's to a meeting in late August/early September. Mark will get more information out. The club will probably be invited for a field trip to visit conflict areas with the FS Jemez Ranger district.
- Las Cruces area – the latest is that they are reporting some vandalism and theft on the track ways. The BLM is all stirred up. Joann sent a letter that 4WD clubs would be happy to help out. We have to keep the pressure up.

Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx: Not present. Jeff Rector is selling raffle tickets and club apparel.

Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner: Laurye will not be able to attend the last meetings; she would like somebody to step up for Historian in July. Justin Simenson has volunteered!

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Not present.

Old Business:

- Mary and Joan went to look at the July meeting site. Mary asked if the club would buy hamburgers and hotdogs. There was a motion to spend \$100 to buy hamburgers/hotdogs/buns. Liquor is allowed at the picnic site, but no glass bottles. Bring your own beer in a can. The club is buying hamburgers/hotdogs/buns, everybody else bring desserts and sides. The fun will start at 2:00 and we will eat at 4:30/5:00. The club will provide some tea and sodas. Brady amended the motion to change the money to \$200 – all were in favor.
- REMINDER: Club dues are due in August.

New Business:

- Mike & Kristy Coe are moving to Utah. ☺ They have enjoyed their time with the club and hope to see people on the trails in Utah! Laurye presented a card and club T-shirts to Mike and Kristy. Wolfe brought out a cake!

- Keith & Linda Jurey are now eligible for membership! There was a motion to vote and all were in favor. Welcome Keith & Linda!
- Jeeps West raffle in Zuni Mountains – Wolfie made a motion that we donate all the clubs Chile Challenge winnings. All were in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15.

Winner of the 50/50 drawing: \$77 in tickets sold. Kristy won \$38 in the 50/50! Rance won another hat. Kristy also won a hat.

Money collected for sale of NM4W logo items:

3 stickers = \$15.00

3 T-shirts = \$27.00

Thanks for the delicious burgers and hotdogs Mark!



President's Report

By Lauri Rector

Well, I can't do what I did last month and just copy a report that didn't get published. I've got to come up with new material this month. What comes to mind is what fun I've had since the last President's Report that I wrote (er, copied). We went to the Jemez about 4 weeks ago when my son and his girlfriend came to visit. She wanted to go camping. It was so beautiful up there that weekend. They really loved it and had a great time. I'm sure sorry that I was not able to go with the club for the Memorial Weekend runs. I hope everyone had a great time. Jeff and I made other plans for that weekend a long time ago. We had a great weekend that was just jam packed full of extreme rock crawling. Like someone said "our fun meter was pegged for 2 days solid". Then we went out for a few hours on the last morning for some more fun before we headed back home. There was also the great Farmington trip. I cannot believe the turn out for that run. That is such a great place because you can make it as hard or as easy as you want. The snow was somewhat of a bummer, but it didn't ruin the weekend at all.

Hopefully, some of the people that went to the Jemez got motivated to help or provide support for the Travel Management process. The Santa Fe forest has tentative meetings set up for the districts in early August. These are important meetings and we need to continue to support this effort. We also don't want to forget about the Cibola forest, and the start of the Mountaineer and Mt. Taylor districts which will be in the very near future. I know that some of us sound like broken records on "this Travel Management thing". But, we can't lose these trails!!! Not only are they the only ones my "small tire" Jeep will do, they are fun and offer a tremendous outdoor experience for us all. I will still want to go 4-wheeling there even if I get a Jeep with bigger tires.

Also, please nominate someone (or yourself) for an officer position at the June meeting. It would be nice to have someone to vote for. As well, I'd hate to see an officer seat go unfilled, I might be the one that has to fill in. Hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Member Spotlight: Pat & Sue Brady

By Joan Wolf



As members since 1986, Pat and Sue Brady are mainstay (we won't say vintage) New Mexico Four Wheelers. Over the years they've gone on countless runs (extreme four-wheeling is Pat's current interest), served as officers (Pat as President and Vice President, Sue as Treasurer and Historian), and been all-round supporters of the four-wheeling community. NM4W without the Brady's is like the Chile Challenge without wind.

Since Sue and Pat joined NM4W pre-Google, how did they learn about the club? They were buying 4WD parts for their '83 Toyota pickup at the Pep Boys on San Mateo and struck up a conversation with Marty and Allen Gilmore. The Gilmore's were active NM4Wers for decades before moving from Albuquerque in 1995. Thanks to the Gilmore's and Brady's, the club still knows the way to trails in the Jemez, Caballo Reservoir, Monticello Canyon, and Silverton areas. Sue fondly remembers monthly campouts in the Jemez Mountains. And for many years, NM4W held an annual Memorial Day Treasure Hunt at sites from Monticello Canyon to the Jemez.

From 1988 to 2002, Pat drove a white '73 Bronco that had every hard core Bronco part known to man. "It was built to the hilt," says Pat. Mark Werkmeister dubbed it the "White Pig" because it would approach an obstacle, root out the rocks, and go on up the hill. In 2002, Pat sold the Bronco because he got tired of the body work. Hard core rock crawling on "Jeep" trails was tough on the wide-bodied Bronco.

After the Bronco, Pat bought a black '93 Barbie YJ and turned it into a YJ/Ford. Except for the Jeep frame and body, everything has been replaced with Ford parts. The YJ/Ford has a '93 Mustang motor coupled with a C-6 transmission and an Atlas II (3.8) transfer case. The diffs are a Ford 9" rear end and a Dana 44 front with Detroit lockers. It sports 37" tires, blah, blah, blah, gearhead stuff. Pat claims to be done with the Jeep for now. His theory is that you make changes only when you can't keep up. At this point there are only a few hills he can't do. One is the Big Johnson in Farmington but Pat explains, "It's beyond stupid anyway."

Pat was born in Lincoln, Nebraska but it's hard to say where he grew up. By age 18, he'd lived in 18 states! Dad was a structural steel engineer and the family followed the jobs. Was that hard? Pat said he learned how to step forward and meet people. He certainly stepped forward to meet Sue at a bar in Phoenix. Pat was working as a bouncer and Sue had reluctantly gone out with the girls since she was scheduled for a tonsillectomy the next day. Although their first meeting was brief, it was long enough for Pat to get Sue's phone number. They've been happily married for 24 years.

Sue was born in Austin, Texas and grew up in the Phoenix area. An animal devotee, after high school she became a Certified Veterinary Technician at Eastern Wyoming College in Torrington, WY. For the past 20 years Sue has worked mostly in the automotive field. Currently she's with Bob Turner Ford (someone has to get a discount on those Ford parts). She does data entry, inventory, and shipping and receiving in the Parts Department.

After high school, Pat served in the Army as a Communications Technologist and was stationed mostly in Korea, White Sands, and Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey. The Brady's moved to Albuquerque in 1984 when Pat took a job with Philips Semiconductors. After 19 years with Philips, Pat took a buyout. He then spent some

time at fun jobs such as making and repairing guns and building custom u-joints and custom suspensions. He now works at Sandia National Labs in the fire sciences area and says, "I've learned how to burn just about anything."

Pat started four-wheeling at age 16 on the family farm near Denton, Nebraska. Of the many trails he's run, Rocotillo Rapids in Las Cruces is Pat's all-time favorite. Pat says his "new favorite" is Coyote Hills in the Gordy's Hill area, "It's hard core, extreme, 5+ on a 4 scale." After 30+ years of wheeling, has Pat mellowed? His reply, "No, I still like stupid trails with stupid obstacles."

Sue was introduced to four-wheeling in Wyoming when she accompanied friends on hunting trips. For Sue, any Silverton trail gets her vote, but Stony Pass is the best of the best. She likes to be above the tree line where you can see forever, and she's also partial to the marmots and picas in the talus slopes.

Even after umpteen years of four-wheeling, there are always more trails. Pat wants to try new hard core trails in the Phoenix area, Woodpecker and Minesweep. Sue is curious about the Dusy-Ershim in California. Their reluctant four-wheeling companion is Tailer, an animal rescue dog, or mutt as to-the-point Pat calls him. Although Tailer likes to ride in vehicles, he does not like the Jeep. Pat says, "I do not drive sanely and I think Tailer gets bumped around too much".

Any unpleasant trail experiences? Pat remembers the Double Whammy in Moab when the Bronco's rear axle broke. He had a spare axle and fixed it on the spot. However, he needed some parts from town and it was a long, long day before Mark Werkmeister made the trip to Moab and back with parts. Another "Are we having fun yet?" time was a trip to Utah in October. He, Mark, and LP How went to Pariah Canyon and Wildhorse Canyon. It was cold and windy every day for 1-1/2 weeks.

Pat is four-wheeling's MacGyver. Wolfie says, "Brady can fix anything, anywhere, anytime, with next to nothing." Pat has repaired broken oil pans, tie rods, drive links, and axles using his onboard welder and excellent mechanical skills. Pat's most recent accomplishment was designing and building a suspension system for a certain Jeepster Commando. This vehicle is now on wheels for the first time in seven years!



The Brady's are avid hunters. Pat's favorite is bow hunting for elk. For many years Sue went hunting just to go hiking in the forest. Now she also hunts and has bagged an elk in the Gila. They enjoy eating game year-round and Sue has brought many tasty elk dishes to the club potlucks. The Brady's hope to take another trip to Alaska, this time for hunting. Pat is after coastal grizzly and Sue wants to hunt moose.

Pat's non-four wheeling interests include hunting, target shooting, machine work, and hiking. For Sue, she enjoyed her years as a BLM volunteer when she helped BLM Archaeologists document Indian ruins. Some years ago Sue led a memorable NM4W outing to Armijo Canyon south of La Ventana Natural Arch. We hiked to a homestead and to several unmapped Indian ruins that only Sue could spot.

For many years Sue has graciously taken on the task of reserving the church meeting room for winter meetings. Pat recently volunteered for the vacant VP position with the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association. The Brady's retirement dream is to live in the countryside around Reserve, New Mexico. They love the quietness, slower pace, and proximity to the Gila Mountains. Until that time, we hope they'll be mainstay NM4Wers.

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

The Socorro office of the BLM has finally released the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for public comment. The RMP is a very important document because it outlines the general direction and plan that the Socorro office will follow for its management practice for the next 10-20 years! This particular RMP is doubly important to us because it contains the establishment and general management of the Gordy's Hill OHV area. While I hesitate to make too big a deal of Gordy's Hill (as it may divert our attention away from the other issues of motorized recreation on the lands managed by the Socorro office), this is truly a unique and valuable opportunity!

Gordy's Hill is actually in the 'preferred alternative' as proposed by the Socorro office. It is proposed as a 7647 acre Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) consisting of designated trails for single track (mountain bikes/motorcycles), ATV's, and 4WD vehicles. It also proposes that the preparation of a Recreation Area Management Plan to be one of the top planning priorities for the Socorro office. The preparation of the Management Plan is a BIG deal because it would be the actual document that would designate the trail system with the Gordy's Hill SRMA. So..... the Resource Management Plan creates the Special Recreation Management Area and prioritizes the planning necessary to actually designate the trails. Make sense? Good.

Okay, here is how to help ensure that the preferred alternative is the alternative that gets adopted and that Gordy's Hill is included as it is currently presented. **You need to provide written comments (or oral comments at the meeting in Socorro on May 22nd, but mail is easier) on the draft Resource Management Plan. I know that writing letters isn't that much fun, but this is truly a special opportunity that we must not let get away from us!!!!**

Written comments are due by July 16th and should be sent to:

**Brian Bellew
Socorro Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
901 S. Highway 85
Socorro, NM 87801**

The document is pretty imposing at about 500 pages including maps (with another 250 pages of Appendices), so I will try to help you out by providing you:

1. An overview of how the document is organized and arranged so you can navigate your way to the sections in which you are most interested,
2. Some hints on how and what to write so your comments have the most impact, and
3. Some general and specific comments to make on the Gordy's Hill portion of the draft RMP if you aren't able to find the time to create your own.

A Quick Overview of How the RMP is Organized

The Draft Resource Management Plan can be found on-line at http://www.nm.blm.gov/sfo/sfo_rmp_revision/sfo_rmp_revision.html. It is in the typical .pdf format (you can load a free 'reader' at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>). It is broken into four pieces to help it load a little faster, but if you only have dial-up, you won't like waiting for it! Like any big

reference book, the Table of Contents, starting on page (i) is your friend!!! All of Chapter 1 is essentially 'boilerplate' that describes what the RMP document is supposed to do, restates the planning process employed, lists the 'issues' that have already been identified in earlier steps of the process, and generally dots 'i's' and crosses 't's' according to what the BLM has to do when it writes an RMP. Generally speaking, you can skip Chapter 1.

Chapter 2 is where it starts getting interesting. It presents the alternatives as a range of options on which the public can comment. Alternative A is always the "No Action" alternative. **Alternative A will not be adopted**, it is merely in the RMP to describe the current state of management and is used as a baseline to contrast with the new plan alternatives. Like almost all NEPA documents, **this RMP provides three additional alternatives (B, C, and D) that are the actual alternatives to be considered.** Alternative B is the preferred alternative. As the document describes, "The overall goal of this alternative is to provide a balance between resource use and protection. Management under this alternative would balance the need to protect, restore, and enhance natural values with the need to provide for the production of food, fiber, and minerals, and to provide recreation, heritage tourism, and other services on public land." Alternative C is the "protection" alternative. Again, in the words of the document, "Alternative C provides greater emphasis on resource protection than Alternative B. This would be achieved primarily through more management emphasis on protection of resource values associated with special designations and special status species." And finally, Alternative D is the "production" alternative. It "emphasizes commodity production and use, including mineral leasing and mineral material sales, grazing, commercial recreation and tourism, and woodland-products harvesting. Under Alternative D, constraints on commodity production would be the least restrictive while still complying with applicable law, regulation, and BLM policy."

So.....to review: Alternative A - Current situation as a comparison. Alternative B - The 'preferred' alternative (the balanced approach). Alternative C - The most protective alternative. Alternative D - The least protective alternative. That being said, there are some peculiarities to this particular RMP associated with motorized recreation that doesn't always follow the 'typical' alternatives range. For instance, Gordy's Hill is actually smaller under the Production Alternative (D) than the Preferred Alternative. More on that later.....

The first part of Chapter 2 described the "Continuing Management Guidance" and "Management Common to All Alternatives" under a bunch of topic areas. In a nutshell, it describes the boundaries that the BLM has to stay within for all of the alternatives. **Starting on page 2-23, the RMP starts describing the specific actions under the different alternatives for a whole range of topics.** By the way, these thirteen specific topics, and the order in which they appear, is consistent throughout Chapter 2. For instance, "visual resources" is always listed as the sixth item, "recreation" is always the eleventh, and "transportation and travel management" is twelfth, and "special designations" is always listed as the thirteenth and final. **If you want to save time, there is a table that summarizes all of the alternatives and how they deal with the thirteen topic areas starting on page 2-52.**

Chapter 3 "provides a summary of the current conditions of the resources, resource uses, and programs within the Planning Area." To make things more interesting to government bureaucrats, they change up the topic areas by arranging and splitting up the areas differently in this chapter. These are summarized on page 3-1. **Chapter 3 is basically a list of all the data that the BLM has collected to characterize the current situation.** The topic of most interest to us, OHV use, is covered under Section 3.3.7.4, Off Highway Vehicle Use, on page 3-54.

Chapter 4 "characterizes the potential impacts on the environment of implementing the alternatives described in Chapter 2." In this chapter, the BLM experts try to project what impacts might result from the various alternatives based on the data they present in Chapter 3. Some key wording to review regarding OHV impacts is found on page 4-45 under the final two paragraphs of Section 4.4.7. There are many other references to OHV travel in Chapter 4, but in general, the references tend to be general in nature and describe the positive impacts of eliminating the current 'open' designation on lands managed by the Socorro office.

Chapter 5 covers more 'boilerplate' about consulting with local government entities and tribes, and describes the various public comment opportunities that have occurred. Don't bother with Chapter 5.

And that is it! You did it! Well, almost. Now the Maps and various Appendices.....

As you see below, the maps come in "sets of three" as there is a map for each of the alternatives being considered. Maps of interest:

Map 2-15 Gordy's Hill - Alternative B
Map 2-37 Gordy's Hill - Alternative C
Map 2-59 Gordy's Hill - Alternative D
Map 2-21 Off Highway Vehicle Use Designations - Alternative B
Map 2-42 Off Highway Vehicle Use Designations - Alternative C
Map 2-65 Off Highway Vehicle Use Designations - Alternative D
Map 2-1 Special Designations - Alternative B
Map 2-22 Special Designations - Alternative C
Map 2-43 Special Designations - Alternative D

Appendices of Interest:

Appendix J - Off Highway Vehicle Areas and Route Designations - **Included in this section is a road section by section description/map of roads that will be closed by the this RMP.** Comment at your own discretion but I have made a few specific suggestions below.

Appendix K, Section V. Gordy's Hill SRMA - A very brief description of Gordy's Hill and why they are proposing it.

There. You did it. Now you are done reviewing the material (you have been reading along, right?) and you are ready to make your comments.

General Guidance on Providing Comments

Comments are always the most valuable and impactful if they are your own and not someone else's. Petitions and form letters are easily identified by the agency and generally get counted as a single comment no matter how many times the agency sees the form letter. If you do use somebody else's ideas, 'personalize' it as much as you can and hand write it. This helps it stand out as a "different" comment.

Comments can be on things that you like seeing in the plan, additional items that you would like to see included in the final version of the plan, changes you would like to see the BLM consider, etc. Your suggestions can be combinations of pieces of alternatives that were presented or they can be entirely new items that you think should be included. As much as possible, try to avoid emotional comments and try to provide answers for items that you question. In other words, if you don't like something, present a workable alternative as a solution!

If you have been to Gordy's Hill (or other places within the plan) and enjoyed it, tell the BLM what and why! And some complimentary wording never hurts!!

Comments

And now for some general, and then specific, comments that I noted as I reviewed the material.

General Comments:

1. The establishment of Gordy's Hill as a SMRA is a great idea. Quality opportunities for motorized recreation are shrinking and providing a special place and special management for those activities will help decrease the impacts of 'outlaw' motorized activities in other areas.
2. Motorized recreation is still growing at a fast pace; and recognizing the growing public need, planning for that need, and working with the user community to fulfill that need is a very positive thing.
3. Gordy's Hill offers a wide range of motorized recreational activity for a broad swath (motorcycles, ATV's, 4WD) of motorized users.
4. The development of a management plan for Gordy's Hill will offer the BLM an opportunity to utilize a large base of dedicated volunteers from organized groups of motorized users. We want to help! We offer our services.
5. Gordy's Hill is an important piece of the RMP for motorized users, but it isn't the only thing! Check out the maps to ensure that you will still have access for the other favorite places that you like to go!

Specific Comments:

1. Map 2-15 - The northwest boundary of Gordy's Hill should follow the Johnson Hill Road and then follow the Pipeline Road down to Arroyo de la Parida. This was the intended alignment, is a 'natural' boundary, and makes much more sense from a boundary integrity standpoint.
2. Appendix D, page D4 - In addition to monitoring OHV uses within the Planning Area with a focus on compliance with specific designations, there should be an active monitoring program to determine if the Planning Area is succeeding in meeting the specific needs and expectations of the motorized user community. The motorized community, like any other user group, should be able to expect the management agency to actively seek to provide the type of quality recreational opportunities that they desire (within the context of the larger RMP). To focus the monitoring on compliance only misses a key element in determining public user satisfaction and discriminates against a particular user group.
3. Appendix J - There are grave concerns over numerous route closures within WSA's. While closing post-1980 user-created routes are an appropriate action, many of the routes proposed for closure under Alternatives B and C are clearly identified as 'ways' that pre-date the establishment of the WSA's. While closing these routes may make management of wilderness values in these WSA's easier, there is nothing under the *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review* or *Instruction Memorandum 2003-275* that supports the elimination of these routes. In numerous cases, the closure of identified routes, even under Alternative B, would eliminate interesting loops, make access to special points within these WSA's much more difficult, and generally try to manage these areas as Wilderness which they are not!

TONS of information, but this is VERY important!!!! Please write up your comments (Don't copy mine exactly!!!!) and send your comments today!

Memorial Day Campout

By Paul Thompson

The annual Memorial Day campout and trail ride was fun and relaxing for 10 member families and 4 guests. Eight of us (Peeples, Bontly/Montano/Griego, Berglund, Hurt, Wolf, Thompson, Caskey, and guest John

Fisher and Devin) camped out for at least 2 nights, while 5 additional vehicles (Kausche, Whiston Sr., Whiston Jr., and guests Keith and Jennifer Johnson and Derek and Dawn *sorry-we-didn't-get-your-last-name*) showed up for the Saturday run, and guests Tim and Pat Nash joined us on Sunday.



A rain shower on Friday afternoon sent campers for cover and made for slippery conditions for those arriving to set up camp later in the day. Aside from a slightly muddy start to Saturday's run, the conditions and the weather were perfect for the remainder of our stay. This and earlier rains have made the forest green and lush with only moderate fire danger.

With 13 vehicles ready to go at 9:00 am Saturday morning, we set out for a run up Joaquin Canyon. A side trip to the old log skidder has become a tradition for returning members and is a big hit for guests and newcomers. We would have been stopped in our tracks by a sizable log across the road, but Tom Hurt and his

trusty chain saw saved the day. As we progressed up the canyon we encountered more downed trees that required more sawing and winching to make the trail passable. After lunch, we spent a few minutes exploring some old log cabins probably associated with logging activities in years past. When we reached FR 534, some of the group headed back to camp while the rest of us proceeded to the top of San Miguel Mountain. At Tom's suggestion, we returned via the north side of the mountain, a route that was new to most of us.

The highlight of Saturday evening's pot luck was the Navajo Tacos provided by Ethel May Peoples. Chuck did an excellent job as fry bread cook. As usual, there was way more food than we could eat. The evening ended with a roaring campfire and good conversation.

On Sunday, having a slightly smaller group, we started our run with a little exploration. We identified and followed the trail leading up McMillan Canyon until we encountered a tree across the trail too large to be removed without considerable effort. After vowing to return another day to clear the obstruction, we proceeded to our original goal of ascending Church Canyon. At the top of the ridge, we connected with FR 535 and followed it north to our lunch stop next to the Rio del Indio. We crossed the wash and followed it up stream where we encountered more trees and brush that needed to be cleared. Again, Tom's chain saw was crucial in opening the trail and making the run (and the weekend) a success. Eventually we made our way back to FR 535 and back to camp.



Believing that we should leave the forest cleaner than we find it, we all picked up trash as we encountered it on the trail and at the camp site. Mark and Joan Wolf deserve credit for the bulk of the collecting and hauling, including a truck bumper!

By Sunday night or Monday morning we all had to break camp and head for home. We relish the relaxation and good company as we look forward to the next outing.



For Sale



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

For additional classified ads,
please visit our web site at
www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm

Club Notes

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

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

Trail Tales on the Web Site: In a continuing effort help save natural resources and to control costs, you are encouraged to read the Trail Tales newsletter on the Club Web Site in lieu of receiving a hard copy in the mail. So if you want to help “save some trees”, please send an e-mail to TrailTales@nm4w.org stating that you do not need to receive the hard copy of the newsletter. Thanks for your 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 **25th of the prior month**. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

Schedule of Events

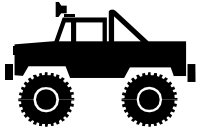
Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Jun 16	Club Meeting at the Brady's	Call Pat & Sue Brady	505-898-6449
Jul 14	Club Meeting at Carolina Canyon Park	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-6547
Aug 10	Club Meeting at the Turpin's	Call Craig & Mary Turpin	505-254-8748
Aug 17-19	Zuni Mountains Trip with Jeeps West	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541
Sep 8	Mt. Blanca Trip	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296

NM4W Officers

<p>President Lauri Rector 228-6547 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Beth Whiston 292-1541 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Paul Thompson 293-8390 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Jerry Marx 922-9370 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Laurye Tanner 281-0994 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
31 La Mirada Rd
Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



July 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From June 16, 2006

by Beth Whiston



Meeting was held at the home of Pat & Sue Brady. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 6:35.

Guests: Jan Waugh, Mike Wolf.

Members Present: Paul Baca, Glenn Bontly & Jan Montano, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Kevin Cox, Erwin & Jeanne Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Jason & Sara Lavy, Dan & Chris Pritchard, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Justin Simenson & Rebecca Tafoya, Paul & Mary Thompson, Mark Werkmeister & Joann (soon to be) Werkmeister, 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: \$1,891.57 is the balance.

Vice President's Report – Mark Wolf:

- The point sheet is being passed around. Check it out. Let Mark know about any corrections. If you are a guest, check out the point sheet for guests too.
- Tim & Pat Nash have enough points to be voted in; they were not able to make it to the meeting. Mark made a motion to vote them in as members. All were in favor.
- No fines at this time.

Trip Chairman's Report – Frank Whiston:

- Only run since the May meeting was Memorial Day. On Saturday the group did Joaquin Canyon and San Miguel Mountain. There was a potluck on Saturday night. The Peeples made fry bread for Indian tacos, they were delicious! On Sunday, the group did Church Canyon. Thank you to Tom Hurt for the chainsaw on both days!
- All-4-Fun – July 28 - August 3. The website has events schedule and they are still accepting reservations.
- Zuni Mountains – August 17 - 19; Jeeps West Club of Gallup will be hosting us in the Zuni mountains. They have reserved the Wildlife building and will be having a raffle.
- Mt. Blanca September 8 - 9 – Mark Werkmeister is the contact.

- Canyon Lands October 2-7 – Frank G. Whiston is the contact. Let Frank know if you are interested.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister:

- If you have not written your letter to Socorro office of the BLM (Gordy's Hill), Please do so! It will be the most important letter you will ever write! The deadline to write a letter is July 16th.
- Starting in August, the Santa Fe NF will be having some workshops. Mark will send out a schedule as soon as it is finalized. They will take place the first week of August.
- Some members of the club went out with a representative of the SFNF (Jemez District) last Sunday to do a run. The club took the Ranger to a lot of places he has never been. There was talk about opening an old road on School House Mesa. Mark thinks that with a few hours of work we could have it open again.

Program Chairman's Report – Jerry Marx: Not present. Jeff Rector is filling in. He has short sleeve shirts, long sleeve shirts, and hats to sell. See him after the meeting if you are interested. Jeff is also selling raffle tickets.

Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner: Not present.

Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Due to the issues with Comcast e-mail users, Glenn made an (unsuccessful) attempt to change to a new server host. It just did not work out (loss of password protection of the Member's Only Page & loss of our group e-mail lists), so Glenn ended up moving back to the original web host.

Old Business:

- July 14th is our next meeting at Carolino Canyon Park on South 14. The club is providing meat, drinks, etc. It is a 20 minute drive from Tramway/I-40. Rules for picnic area: No glass (alcohol only allowed in cans), and no smoking. Come anytime after 2PM. There will be volleyball and horseshoes. Nice bathrooms, picnic shelter, electrical outlets. Thanks Joan and Mary for organizing this!!
- Dues are due end of July.
- Lauri asked if there were any nominations for officers. Jason Lavy nominated himself for Program Chair. Frank G. nominated Justin Simenson for Historian. Lauri nominated herself for President. Wolfie nominated Frank G. for Vice President. Many members nominated Paul Thompson as treasurer, he accepted. Glenn nominated Mark Werkmeister as Director of Environmental affairs, he accepted. Beth Whiston is willing to be Secretary again if nobody else volunteers at the July meeting. Jan Waugh volunteered for Trip Chairman - there was a discussion that she was not a member yet. She would need to be a member by August 1st to become an officer. The discussion was tabled. The club will vote in new officers next month.

New Business:

- United dues are in a state of flux and will most likely change in August. We do have the NM4W dues set at an appropriate level (i.e., no dues increase for us!).
- Meeting adjourned at 7:08.

- Thank you Bradys for hosting us!

Winner of the 50/50 drawing: Collected \$54.00 in the raffle. Sue Brady won \$27.00! She's going to spend it on gas! The other \$27.00 will go to the club.

Money collected for sale of NM4W logo items: \$51.00! (Two t-shirts, two stickers, one hat)



President's Report

By Lauri Rector

Wow, summer has really set in. I'm getting old enough now to want a vehicle with very tinted windows and air conditioning. If Jeff will stay satisfied with what he has for a few more years, I may finally be able to update my vehicle. I really like my Jeep, but a new one with more creature comforts sounds so nice. This especially comes to mind during my almost 1 hour drive home in 95+ degree temperatures. I really envy those drivers that have their windows rolled up and their air conditioning on. *(Jeff, I think this is a hint. –ed)*

This is also the time of the year that we vote in new officers into the club. I feel that I need to let everyone know, especially since we did have a smaller turnout at the June meeting, that even though we got enough nominations to fill all of the positions at the June meeting, it does not mean that nominations are closed (someone correct me if I am wrong on this). I bring this up because I don't want to close an opportunity for someone to fill a position that they are wanting. Such as me nominating myself for president, which I did because I'm finally starting to really enjoy the position and I'm getting more comfortable with it and would like to do it for one more year. However, there are probably several people that would be better qualified and better suited for the position. So, before voting begins at the July meeting, I will be asking for nominations (not just for president, but for all of the positions). I don't want anyone that couldn't attend or was too shy at the June meeting to miss out on nominating themselves or someone else.

And, don't forget about Gordy's Hill. PLEASE send a response – NOW! Just quite reading the trail tails for a while and send a response. *(and after you write your letter, please read the rest of the newsletter. :o) –ed)*. If you need contact information, let me know. I will forward the last email from Mark Werkmeister.

Club Dues

By Glenn Bontly

On behalf of our esteemed Treasurer, Paul Thompson, I would like to remind everyone that club dues are due THIS month, July. I'm sure EVERYONE will want to escape the heat in the city and will be present at the July meeting up in the mountains, so PLEASE bring your cash, check, or money order (sorry, no credit cards) in the amount of \$35. As a special incentive, everyone who pays their dues at the July meeting will receive a FREE soda! ;o)

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

Hello everyone! The Environmental Report this month is very, very short. Here goes:

If you haven't yet written your comments on the Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) released by the Socorro Office of the BLM, *don't delay any longer!* The deadline for submitting written comments is July 16th, but that day will be on us quicker than you think! ***Do it now!*** My more detailed comments were contained in the email alerts that I sent out over the past month, but in a nutshell, the suggestion would be to support "Alternative B", including the proposal to establish a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) to manage motorized recreation at Gordy's Hill.

The third round of public workshops for the Santa Fe National Forest will be starting soon (early August). In this round of workshops, the FS will be presenting their initial proposal for what roads and trails will be designated open in the Santa Fe National Forest. It is very important that you attend one of the ten workshops and provide your input.

And finally, the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest has released their proposed trail designations for that District. While a good deal of historically-used single track was preserved as part of the trail system, the proposal closes the entire La Madera area to motorized recreation, puts seasonal closures in place, and closes additional trails in the Cedro Peak area to 4WD and ATV travel. This proposal at this point is just that: a proposal from the Forest Service. It is very important that we continue to 'help' them draft an appropriate trail system by providing our input and letting them know that we need more 4WD opportunities, not less. Go to <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/index.shtml> to review the proposal yourself and then show up and let them know how you feel about the proposal at the two public comment meetings on July 10th and July 11th.

Thanks. The trails you save are our own!

Mark
NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.

McMillan Canyon Trail Clearing

By Paul Caskey

On Saturday June 23rd, 2007, a small commando unit of NM4W members embarked on a dangerous journey: to penetrate McMillan Canyon. Untold riches have been lost for 3 generations¹ behind the ruins of this canyon. All women and children (except one) were left behind to hope and pray for the safe return of their loved ones.

The entrance to McMillan canyon lies some 45 treacherous² miles northwest of Montes Claros in Brasil, South America.³ The canyon's namesake, fearsome Jack McMillan, is presumed to have died during return from the discovery and mapping of the canyon in 1930. Half a map and partial notes were retrieved near a demolished campsite. His body was never found.⁴

8:45am - We arrive at the mouth of the canyon and break up into four small groups⁵ for safety. A trio of natives form their own cluster and hang behind, refusing to travel with the group. Paul Thompson, the only NM4W member familiar with their dialect, believes they do not approve of our smell.⁶

9:16am - Having made a false turn at the start, we now arrive at the true entrance to the canyon. I begin to doubt the skill of our native guides.

9:33am - The early morning dew is long gone, replaced by a heavy humidity throughout the thick jungle. The trees rise high above, but the sun still manages to penetrate the jungle canopy. I wipe sweat from my brow. The natives seem have better sunscreen than us - some sort of sticky plant substance which also repels bugs. They are not sharing.



9:45am - It is already become difficult bushwhacking our way through the thick foliage. I notice the trees getting larger.



9:55am - We find the trail blockage. It looms upon us as we round a bend. My mouth gapes as I stop dead in my tracks. Hordes of disturbed bats⁷ fly everywhere and one native runs back the way we came.⁸ The blockage, which surprised even the most prepared among us, is a giant fallen redwood covered in peat moss and measuring 20 feet⁹ in diameter, reaching out of sight in either direction into the dense forest. Various markings and cutting attempts are carved into the massive log. Skeletons of failed explorers¹⁰ lie about our feet.

We stop, set down our gear, and draw up an attack plan. We ready our weapons. Tom Hurt wields a massive axe with some magical properties cast upon it by a Shaman back at the village¹¹. Paul T. assists with a 100' rope wound cleverly around his mule's muzzle for leverage.

10:47am - We have conquered the massive tree. The team's combined experience was crucial to success. Tom's magic axe lies smoking by the side of the trail. Exhausted, Paul lazily coils his rope back onto his mule. I better stop writing in this journal and get back to helping before the others start plotting against me. Something tells me we're not out of this, yet. The trail beyond the tree, unseen by civilized man for generations, is barely recognizable.¹² We push on.

11:14am - Tom's pack mule¹³ goes lame. We spend half an hour with our medical kits moving a shoe from one foot to the other, borrowing the shoe from another mule in between. I don't understand the process, but Tom Hurt and Ed Kausche claim to know what they're doing. There was much distress and moaning - from the animals or from the men, I can't say.



12:00pm - We break for lunch. Rations seem to already be running thin, but morale is moderately high. Visions of great wealth at the end of the trail motivate us. Paul T. interprets tales of the remaining two natives who describe a fantasy

world of a Mayan-like ancient civilization at the top of this canyon. They say we don't know what we're doing and are likely to be eaten by cannibals if we do survive all the way to the end.

1:20pm - I think the sun is causing some delirium among the team. Our one very young companion has collapsed from exhaustion. The other men are bartering viciously for water. I secretly check my supply and say nothing. We lost the remaining two natives some time ago, around the time we reached a certain elevation and the birds went quiet.¹⁴ The air is heavy.

1:53pm - Time seems to crawl in this place. Our blades are dull and our muscles ache from bushwhacking. Following the first tree, we have penetrated a dozen more. Luckily none of them were nearly as big.

2:44pm - We approach another tree which we could pass, but the mules can not. We consider leaving them behind, but even delirious in this sun, we are not that stupid. This heavy tree cuts our path from up above, coming down across the trail at an angle and forming a dangerous trap if we were to use our traditional tree clearing methods.



2:50pm - A plan is hatched: veer slightly off the trail and approach the blockage at an angle. Each mule is led stubbornly under the tree, one by one. It is painstaking work. As the second one passes, Paul T. makes a cynical comment to me: "There's probably an impenetrable barrier 50 yards up from here." I pay him no mind and coax my mule through the hazard. "Grandpa Ed" in the rear has the fattest mule and barely makes it.

Paul.

3:05pm - We hit an impenetrable barrier 50 yards up. The vague path becomes thick with trees and stops. I glare at

3:15pm - We have backtracked under the tree, a few hundred yards down the hill, and up a side trail which Tom noticed with his eagle eyes. More bushwhacking. A 6-foot rust-colored Komodo Dragon¹⁵ stares us down from a rock not far off the trail. Like us, luckily, he is too hot and tired for a battle.

3:22pm - In the distance I hear the faint sound of ritualistic singing and chanting far ahead. No one else can hear it. But I know it is there. I encourage us onward.

4:00pm - We have reached Nirvana. The natives were right. We crested the ridge at the top of the canyon and proceeded onward. Down the other side was a long lost civilization living off the land. At first they approached us with spears, but Paul T. was able to negotiate our survival. I am not sure what he offered them, but in exchange we were each given our choice of a beautiful virgin with whom we would be spending the night. A hefty bag of gold was also bestowed upon us. The whole tribe cheered. We are heroes bringing word from the great land beyond the fallen trees!

4:45pm - Paul T. just slapped me awake.¹⁶ The world came back into focus as I painfully opened my eyes against the blinding sun beating down. I am lying in the tall grasses on the side of the trail. Ahead lies a wide gravel road. He did bring us back to civilization. Unfortunately the gold and virgins were all a dream. But the old trail through McMillan canyon is real and is now cleared for all to use.

¹ years_ ² easy_ ³ Albuquerque, New Mexico (same mystique as Montes Claros to most U.S. citizens)_ ⁴ could be true_ ⁵ Jeeps_ ⁶ had their been natives, this would've been true_ ⁷ a finch_ ⁸ not really. remember,

there are no natives. ⁹ inches ¹⁰ maybe some beetles ¹¹ chainsaw ¹² there were actually ATV tracks for quite a ways ¹³ CJ ¹⁴ remember: no natives. and I might be exaggerating about the birds and elevation. ¹⁵ 6-inch rust-colored horny toad ¹⁶ poetic license runs rampant throughout this section of my story. don't worry, there was no falling asleep at the wheel.



For Sale



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

**For additional classified ads,
 please visit our web site at
www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm**

Club Notes

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

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

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

Submission Due Date: 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 **25th of the prior month**. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

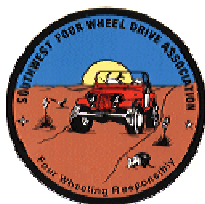
Schedule of Events

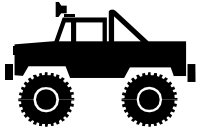
Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Jul 7	La Ventana Trail	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-6547
Jul 14	Club Meeting at Carolina Canyon Park	Call Lauri Rector	505-228-6547
Jul 28–Aug 3	41 st Annual All-For-Fun	Mile High Jeep Club, CO	www.mhjc.org
Aug 10	Club Meeting at the Turpin’s	Call Craig & Mary Turpin	505-254-8748
Aug 17 - 19	Zuni Mountains Trip with Jeeps West	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541
Sep 8 - 9	Mt. Blanca Trip	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296

NM4W Officers

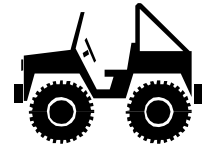
<p>President Lauri Rector 228-6547 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Mark Wolf 856-8539 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Beth Whiston 292-1541 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Paul Thompson 293-8390 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Jerry Marx 922-9370 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Laurye Tanner 281-0994 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
31 La Mirada Rd
Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



August 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From July 14, 2006

by Joan Wolf



Everyone enjoyed the cool mountain air and a great potluck at the Carolino Canyon picnic area. There were dogs and kids galore. Paul Thompson and Wolfie grilled hamburgers to go with the salads and many yummy desserts.



Jan, Wolfie, Glenn, & Paul



Jeanne, Cliff, Erwin, & Jeannie



Mike, Mary, Paul-Baptiste, Kathy, & Alex



Eveliina, Anna, Marcia, Blake, & Sara

Meeting was called to order by President Lauri Rector at 5:45 p.m.

Guests: Joseph Alderete, Don & Bette Greene (Samurai and '97 Jeep), Craig & Jillyn Howe, James & Ana Lombard (Grand Cherokee and Jeep Limited), Jonathan Loehr ('07 Wrangler), Jason Saman, Marki Hawkins ('82 CJ7), and Jan Waugh (who was voted in as member later in the meeting).

Members Present: Paul-Baptiste & Eveliina Baca, Mark & Maria Berglund, Glenn Bontly & Jan Montano, Paul Caskey, Rance Cochrane, Nancy Crowley, Leon & Marcia Duggar, Erwin & Jeannie

Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Jason & Sara Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Dan & Chris Pritchard, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Mike Robertson & Kathy Wolf, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Justin Simenson & Rebecca Tafoya, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Bob Telepak, Paul & Mary Thompson, Craig & Mary Turpin, Frank & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

Visiting family members were Karen & Katie from Houston (Paul & Mary's daughter and granddaughter) and Leon's mother and sister from San Antonio.

Secretary's Report: It was voted to dispense with reading last month's minutes (with the usual naysayer minus his compadre Pat Brady).

Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson: \$2,271.56 bank balance. This doesn't include dues that are currently being collected.

VP/Sheriff Report – Mark Wolf: Wolfie explained the points system and circulated the points chart for review. A gift certificate will be awarded to the person with most points for participating in club events. This year's top contenders are Wolfie with 40 points followed by the Rectors with 34 points. Ten members have zero points, meaning they paid dues but did not participate in meetings or runs this past year.

Fines levied: There was debate about fining Lauri Rector for the La Ventana run. As trip leader, she had no U-turns or wrong turns, but part of the group got "lost" when they followed someone who had to leave early. Resolution: it was Jeff's fault because he won't fix the CB and Lauri was unable to transmit to the entire group not to follow the vehicle that turned back. Justin was fined for going to the wrong meeting place at the wrong time for the La Ventana run (but he caught up with the group).

Trip Chairman's Report – Frank Whiston

- **La Ventana:** Lauri said it was a great day. Got started at 7:30 a.m. so it wasn't hot, 17 vehicles, no dust, found the overlook, finished at 1 pm but talked for awhile afterwards.
- **All 4 Fun:** Frank and a few others will be there. Starts July 28 in Salida, CO. Keith & Linda Jurey will lead some trails. See mhjc.org for details.
- **Gallup,** August 17-19. The Gallup 4WDC will take NM4W on an "itchy but scratchy" run. Camping will be near McGaffey Lake, take the Fort Wingate exit from I-40.
- **Mt. Blanca,** Sept. 7-8, will be led by Mark Werkmeister.
- **Needles District** of Canyonlands, Oct. 2-7. Day-use permits are required for some trails so contact Frank G. if interested.
- **Silverton:** Members are invited to join the Thompsons and Peebles in the July 18-24 timeframe. Camping will be at Mineral Creek.

Past runs: Paul Thompson led two work parties to the Jemez for trail clearing. McMillan Canyon is now open.

Director of Environmental Affairs Report – Bob Telepak filled in for Mark Werkmeister:

- Bob explained that the new nationwide trail inventory will stipulate that roads are open only if designated Open. The Cibola National Forest appointed a "working group" (Bob represents us) to recommend routes for motorized travel. They've been meeting since Sep 2006 and their last meeting will be in August.
- There will be three trail designations: Full-Size (for 4WD vehicles), Intermediate (ATV's), and Single-Track (mountain and trail bikes).

- The Cibola has four ranger districts: Sandia, Magdalena, Mountainair, and Mt. Taylor. Probable access losses in the Sandia District may be offset by gains in the other three districts.
- At the July 11 Sandia District meeting in Albuquerque, homeowners requested that the Forest Service give them ¼ mile (2 acres) buffer zones (at taxpayer expense, of course). They also asked for a time extension.
- Comments are due the USFS by July 19. Bob suggested that members ask that the La Madera area be considered for full-size 4WD use. La Madera is an isolated area north of I-40 and has the potential for extreme wheeling.
- Dr. Bob thinks that every year a map will be published (similar to hunting maps) and users will have to obtain a vehicle sticker to access the areas.
- Carlos Tanner suggested that NM4W could provide assistance to the USFS in the form of sweat equity. This approach helped keep Mt. Blanca open.
- BLM Socorro RMP (Road Management Plan): Wolfie reminded that comments are due 7/16/07. Alternative B allows Gordy's Hill as a Special Resource Management area. Anyone who provides comments now will be eligible to file an appeal should that become necessary.

Historian's Report – Laurye Tanner: In her comments on the USFS Travel Management Plan, Laurye offered NM4W's 49-year collection of photos and documents should the Forest Service want documentation of trail use.

Program Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy: A new shirt order will be placed, so notify Jason of special requests for colors, sleeve length, etc.

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Nothing to report.

SW4WD Delegate – Bob Norton: Bob had extra copies of past Drive Lines. He's preparing the next issue so it should be out in ~two weeks. The Dallas-Fort Worth FWD club is hosting the next quarterly event at Gilmore, TX. On July 15, the SWFWDA Board will discuss the United FWDA changes that may affect members.

Old Business:

- 4-Wheeler of the Year will be announced at the August meeting.
- Jan Waugh was voted in as a new member. Four other persons are eligible for membership but were not present.

New Business:

Elections. There was one nominee/volunteer per office, thanks to Cliff Meier's 11th hour volunteerism to be Secretary. Beth withdrew due to a new baby expected ~February 2008 (Congratulations Beth & Frank)! It was motioned, seconded, and approved to accept new officers:

- President – Lauri Rector
- Vice President/Sheriff – Frank G. Whiston
- Secretary – Cliff Meier
- Treasurer – Paul Thompson
- Director of Environmental Affairs – Mark Werkmeister
- Program Chair – Jason Lavy
- Trip Chair – Jan Waugh
- Historian – Justin Simenson

Congratulations and thanks to our new leaders!

Closing business:

- The group thanked Jan Waugh, Mary Thompson, and Joan Wolf for organizing tonight's picnic at Carolino Canyon. Everyone enjoyed getting out of the city.
- Dues in the amount of \$35 are due 8/1/07 to Treasurer, Paul Thompson.

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m. Cliff Meier won \$47 from the 50/50 raffle. Was this an omen that he did the right thing by stepping in for the Secretary position?

Next meeting: August 11 at the home of Craig & Mary Turpin



President's Report

By Lauri Rector

Many of you may not realize this, but this report is usually given to Glenn at the last minute. I know I hide it well, but writing is not my forte – so there is a lot of procrastinating that is involved with writing this report.

I'm late again this month. However, in today's Metro & NM section of the Albuquerque Journal there is an article about off-road vehicles. The head line caught Jeff's (who is the First Lady of the club) eye. It reads "Off-Road Vehicles Make Up Most Violations". Well, after he read it, he suggested that maybe I could do the President's Report about this article.

Hopefully I won't get in trouble for something that I can't spell without spell check – plagiarism. The end of the article does say that they do not believe that New Mexico contributed greatly to the numbers that were given for the Southwest, that data from California is to blame for skewing the numbers.

PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) reported that off-road incidents were the biggest drain on BLM rangers resources, especially in the Southwest where citations were more than all other criminal activity combined. The states included were Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

The violations include hit and run, reckless driving, and other crimes (which does include illegal off-roading on closed or off-limit areas and roads. These made up about a 3rd of the total violations). Since 2004 – which is when the records became public, thanks to the Freedom of Information Act – there have been 6,600 off-road violations. Nationally in 2005, there were 5,400 incidents with off-road vehicles (there is no definition in the article of "off-road vehicle") involving law enforcement on BLM land. The next highest category was drug enforcement incidents and there were about 900.

This brought to mind 3 things. One was something someone either with UFWDA or SWFWDA wrote. I read this about 5 years ago, it was about 6 months or less after we moved here and been active in the club. The statement that stood out was something about that all off-roaders need to always be aware that others are watching them and forming opinions on off-roaders and their four-wheeling. Always conduct yourself so that you are abiding by laws, rules, tread-lightly and such, whether on the paved roads and highways or off the paved roads out in the wilderness. Another thing that came to mind was some email war that I got drug into (just one of the many perks of the office of president). I did not respond or interject into the emails and decided that I would not share

them with the club or the officers. I didn't even really read the emails, just kind of read some of it over Jeff's (you know, the guy who is the 1st Lady of the club) shoulder, and he also read some of them to me. The incident started in an off-road area in Kentucky, we think. But, a minister or a pastor (who seemed adamant about telling everybody his occupation) was out 4-wheeling with family and friends and came across another group of 4-wheelers who were drinking out on the trail. The 1st guy confronted the 2nd group about their drinking. The 2nd group didn't take kindly to it and then the 1st guy became belligerent. At one point someone was threatening someone else with UFC fighter friends. The 3rd is the recent email from Mike Bilbo to Mark Werkmeister about the trash at Gordy's Hill and the fact that Mark would like to see the club have a clean-up day at the staging area in the next few months.

So, the point is (yes, after all of this I do have one) that I would like to remind all of you to behave yourselves out on the trail. I know that almost the whole darn club doesn't need to be reminded of this. But, we have a lot of new people that are interested in the club and I think that it would be a really good time to say it again. Here are a few of the major things that the NM4W does not want to see off-roaders doing on the trail – or any road for that matter.

- No drinking of alcohol while you're driving. No alcohol on the trail, period. However, when the trail ride is over and your rig is parked at camp for the night – bring it on!!!!
- Pack it in and pack it out (do I have that right). Don't litter!!!! And, try to bring a trash bag with you on the trail and pick up trash along the way – you'll also have something to put your own trash into.
- No reckless driving, either down the main trail or on an obstacle. Try not to spin your tires. This is one of the tread-lightly rules, maybe worded a little bit on the strange side.
- When you're on paved road with regular cars – don't tail gate or drive aggressively. This is where the general public gets their opinions of those of us who drive Jeeps and other 4-wheel drive vehicles (which most people think that they are all Jeeps). If we give them a better impression, maybe we wouldn't have to fight so hard to keep trails open.

I know the above is not a complete list. Maybe I was able to hit a few of the major actions that we must avoid in order for us to have a half of a chance to give others the impression that off-roaders are good, respectable, and law-abiding people – even if its only while we are driving our 4X4 of choice.

Club Dues

By Glenn Bontly

On behalf of our esteemed Treasurer, The Honorable Paul Thompson, I would like pass on a SECOND reminder that club dues are due NOW! According to Article I, Paragraph A of the NM4W's Standard Operating Procedures (which are posted on the web site, if you haven't read them), ***Dues shall be delinquent on the first day of September, and all rights and privileges of membership will end.*** Please bring your payment of \$35 to the 11 Aug meeting at Craig & Mary Turpin's house. If you can't make it to the meeting, you can mail in your dues to:

**Paul Thompson
P.O. Box 90154
Albuquerque, NM 87199-0154**

Member Spotlight: Mike Robertson & Kathy Wolf

By Joan Wolf



In the sea of Jeeps, Mike Robertson's Land Rover Discovery stands out. But that's cool, NM4W welcomes diversity. Mike used to own a grocery-gitt'r Jeep. Then in 2001 he bought the Discovery and got serious about four-wheeling. Someone at the Land Rover dealership wanted to form a club, so Mike signed up. After helping establish the now 40-member Albuquerque Land Rover Club, Mike served as webmaster and president.

Mike and Kathy joined NM4W about one year ago. One of their first club outings was the 2006 SWFWDA Summer Quarterly in Ridgway/Silverton. Kathy thoroughly enjoyed Chuck's run to Animas Forks. She'd only seen the San Juans from Hwy 550 and was amazed with the views, mining remnants, and mountain ruggedness that are seen from the back roads. Chuck's

color commentary and historical knowledge about the area also made the run memorable for Kathy. On that trip, she and Mike also enjoyed Imogene Pass and some areas that were new to them. Kathy laughs, "I have a three-hour limit, then I want to shift activities," so she was surprised about enjoying the day-long runs.

Mike and Kathy both work at Sandia National Labs. Mike is manager of an internal auditing group and Kathy works in finance. Mike was born and raised in Salt Lake City and has lived in Albuquerque for 24 years. He served with the Army Paratroopers 2nd Airborne Division and says, "The most exciting thing was training for the 1972 presidential conventions in Miami. Luckily, riots didn't happen."

Kathy was born in Scottsbluff, Nebraska and has lived in various places in the Midwest, California, Washington, and Colorado. Twenty years ago she moved sight unseen from Greeley, Colorado to Albuquerque. For the first two years, she hated it. But the place grew on her and now she thinks Albuquerque is a great place to live. It helps that both of her children live here (for now, at least). Her son, Chris, is married and an accountant. Daughter, Amy, is 28, single and finished with college. She's pondering the future and might move to Hawaii to work on a boat.



Mike has three children, all born on June 19! His daughter, Lori, and her 11-year old son live in Salt Lake City. His twins are son, Gideon, and daughter, Adena. Gideon is married, finishing his EE (Electrical Engineering) Masters degree, and working at Sandia National Labs. Adena is married, a veterinarian, and mom to 10-month old, Alex. Mike brought his adorable, 10-month old granddaughter to the July meeting/picnic. Alex loves being outdoors and she was a great little trooper at the meeting.

Sam is their Rottweiler, a rescue dog from Katrina and Rita. When Adena, the vet, helped out with animal rescues after the hurricanes, she brought back Sam and two other dogs. Sam is 100 pounds of muscle and likes to play hard. They take Sam on long walks to work off some of that energy.



Kathy and Mike try to find time for their other interests. Kathy calls herself a non-athletic gym rat and works out 4-5 times a week. She's been taking golf lessons, but still finds the game "annoying". Skiing is another new endeavor. It's fun and not nearly as frustrating as golf. On weekends they enjoy taking day trips on Mike's Honda Shadow motorcycle to Madrid, Cuba, and other New Mexico spots.

Mike likes skiing, golf, photography, and computers. He claims it's fun to troubleshoot computer problems (I'd agree with the shoot part). He's designed web pages for several groups and professional organizations. Mike also enjoys home improvement, woodworking, and automotive projects.

He's done all the work on his 2001 Land Rover except the welding. The Discovery sports a 2" lift, 32" tires, armor by Rovern Engineering, a 10,000 lb. Mile Marker winch, center diff lock, rock sliders, and custom front bumper. Mike adds, "It also has A/C, which I'm happy to use on hot, dusty trails." Things have come a long way since his first 4WD trip with his uncle back in the 50's. Mike rode in the Jeep's cargo area where he got bounced all over the place. But he was a kid--and loved it!

Mike has run Black Bear three times and hopes not to repeat one experience. His group had reached the top of Black Bear when a serious lightning storm hit. Someone blew a tire on their new vehicle. The driver couldn't get the spare off and no one could get by. There was torrential rain and hail. Then rocks started sliding and bouncing off of vehicles making for a treacherous ride down the mountain into Telluride. It was scary, but all made it down safely.

Besides every trail around Silverton, Mike and Kathy's other favorite trails are Klondyke Bluffs near Arches National Park, and several in Moab: Poison Spider Mesa, Metal Masher, and Fins 'n Things. Mike has attended several Land Rover National Rallies. These are sponsored by a Denver club and attract >100 vehicles. In the future Mike wants to run trails in the Socorro and Farmington areas as well as Utah's Hole In the Rock.

Part of what makes NM4W a great organization is that every vehicle and every member is unique. Who else but Mike Robertson has three children with the same birth date? Mike and Kathy have had many interesting life experiences and they're great additions to the club. So when you meet them on the trail, say hi, even if they don't drive a Jeep.

La Ventana Trail

By Lauri Rector

I could not have gotten any better weather if I was Mother Nature herself. 7:30 am was a really early start, but it was nice, cool, and just extremely pleasant . . . but very early.

We had a really good turn out. There were as many guests as there were club members. The guests were Jon Loehr in a brand new – just picked up on Monday – red 2-door JK Rubicon (I need to get me one of those), Dan Cuze in a TJ, Kevin Wright and his daughter Amber in a 1989 mostly stock

Cherokee, Bill Black in his FJ, Jan Waugh in her YJ, Derek & Dawn Schmidt with their 3 children all in one TJ, and Kenn-Wook Yi in his Rubicon. And the club members were Phil Rodacy, Brad Opatz, Glenn Bontly and his best friend Jan, Kathy Wolf and Mike Robertson with Sam the dog, Paul Caskey, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Joseph Abbate, and at the last minute – Justin Simenson.

We met at the Giant Shell station in San Ysidro. This saved me more than 20 miles of driving, and since I was leading, I could do this. It also shortened the time to the trail head by 20 miles, so that the early start stayed an early start. We were on the trail by 8:30 am. The 1st few miles looked as if a grader had gone through, and there was a new fence. But, once we were on the turn off to the overlook, it was untouched. It was hard to follow the trail and there was a tree down that we had to driver around. There was a big bush in the trail that we were able to push out of the way.

We had differences of opinion at the overlook as to which direction to start walking. Jeannie Greven took off, so I followed here. Once we got out to the edge, we realized that we weren't at the good overlook spot. So we looked around and saw it, about a 100 yards off (in the direction that I thought that it was in). Since nobody was out there yet and we figured they would all head right toward it, we made the walk up to it. As soon as we got there, we saw everybody else standing about where we had been before. We all finally decided that we had seen the overlook and headed back on the trail. It was at this point that Joe Abbate decided that he would go ahead and back track and go back (he may have not been having much fun in his Dodge Pickup – something about no knowing that he could have trailered the Bronco out there). Dan Cuze decided that he would go ahead and go out with him (hope it wasn't anything that I said). I made the mistake on not announcing this before we took off from the overlook, but I did get on my CB and say that Joe Abbate (I didn't know about Dan Cuze until a little later when someone told me that he decided that he'd follow Joe out) was going to make a right (I mean left) turn and we were all going to make a left (I mean right) turn. Well, I guess there was someone without a CB and followed them and then a few more followed and then all of the sudden we were split up. My excellent tail gunner waited for them to make a U-turn (so yes, it was an official club run!!!!) and we all got on the same trail again.

We got to the water fall at 11:30 and got our lunches out and made the short hike to the water fall. It had some water going over the rock and in the stream and made a really nice water feature sound. However, at this time of day, it's not real shady. But, it wasn't real hot yet either, and I think everybody enjoyed it. Kenn-Wook Yi entertained us with his matching RC (radio controlled) TJ Rubicon. This was a really extreme play area for it. It was really fun to watch.

We walked back out to our vehicles and stood around talking for little while. Then I made everyone load back up and we headed back on the trail. Luckily (well, it may have been a lot of fun to drive the loop backwards) the gate was unlocked. So we were able to complete the loop. We got back to the trailers and air up spot at 1:00 pm. It was starting to get pretty warm, but most of us stood around telling stories for about another hour or so.

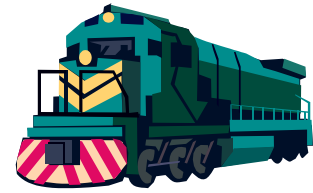
I would like to thank Glenn Bontly for being my tail gunner. It was great having someone back there that would let me know that everyone was moving, that we all made a turn, or that the gate was shut. Jeff doesn't do so well at talking on the CB. But, Jeff came with me and not in his Jeep, which meant he was driving mine. He did an excellent job on the pace. With 17 vehicles (and then 15) we still got pretty spread out. But, his pace made for perfect timing. Also, a big thanks to all of those that showed it. It made for a really great day.

The Wilderness Train

Size Does Matter & Beware of Turtles

By Del & Stacie Albright, BlueRibbon Coalition

Imagine a huge diesel powered locomotive lumbering steadily down the railroad tracks with that big headlight beam pointed right in your eyes as you watch it coming closer and closer. You can feel the ground shaking from the sheer weight of this behemoth. This monster is the Wilderness train and it's coming to a town near you.



The designation of unnecessary and inappropriate Wilderness (by Congress¹) is one of our biggest issues facing motorized and mechanized recreation in the next several years. This "train" is coming if we don't take some steps to stop it and it's a big one!

The Wilderness Train is rolling and we have to ask, are we getting on board? Are we jumping off? Are we stuck on the tracks waiting to get run over? Are we getting out of the way? Did we even buy a ticket for this ride? And hey, how do we divert this train to some other tracks?



Stacie and I attended a BlueRibbon staff meeting and this concept came up. Our attorney and proud BRC member, Paul Turcke coined the term in the meeting – Wilderness Train. After Paul described this train, Stacie said she felt like the damsel in distress, tied to the tracks, watching the monster bear down on her. But then again, she knew that BlueRibbon and several other great recreational organizations were fighting to stop this locomotive and that she would be saved!

Metaphors aside, we DO need to do some saving – and stopping of this train. If you don't want to get run over or "railroaded," then you'd best be doing some specific things to help stop this train.

Realize that the anti-access radical preservationists are trying to conjure up Wilderness designations where ever they can get them, from the oceans to the highest mountains. They could care less about the original 1964 Wilderness Act that made some sense.

Congress worded the 1964 Act to include some common sense and a real sense of wilderness. It talked about huge expanses of land (5000 acres or more), untrammelled by man, where the imprint of man's work is unnoticeable. That is not the case now.

Today's eco-wackos are talking about Wilderness in your town, in your backyard, and in your recreation area for sure. If you look at such things as The Wildlands Project² (explained here at www.delalbright.com/Articles/wildlands.htm), you will read how they want to set aside half our

¹ Only Congress can designate Wilderness.

² The Wildlands Project is a well-funded plan to return 50 percent of the North American continent to wild land or wilderness for the preservation of biological diversity.

country as Wilderness. They even go so far as to call this Turtle Island based on ancient Native American folklore and the great turtle or serpent-of-eternity³ (Snyder, 1969, *Turtle Island*).

Many Wilderness advocates and supporters of the Wildlands Project are using the turtle as their symbol of choice. So beware of bumper stickers showing turtles with our entire continent emblazoned on their shell. This represents a return to the concept of Turtle Island. These people are funded with millions of dollars from anti-access Foundations and all they want to do is to lay claim to earth for its animals and not its people. And now the turtles are riding on trains. ☺

This train is huge and moving fast – and with this big train and its inertia, size does matter because this one isn't easy to stop. So what do we do?

First, get in the right organizations that are doing something for land use and access like the BlueRibbon Coalition and your favorite sport-specific group, like United 4Wheel Drive Association. Don't waste your money on groups or politicians that aren't helping us stop this train. Remember that "quacking like a duck ain't the same thing as flying like one" (says Del). So join up and get in the game. Start with BRC. Join everything you can afford to join after that (as long as they are helping us in the access struggles). Use the Internet or your trusted friends for advice on which clubs/groups to join.



Second, buy from businesses that are helping us. Skip the guys that are just out to make a buck off our recreation while not supporting the access battles. Ask them before you buy if they are members or supporters of land use/access organizations and trails. Check the web sites of your favorite club/group to see what businesses are helping out. Then buy.

Third, learn more about the access fight so you can be better prepared to help stop the train. Take a training course from Tread Lightly or NOHVCC or Del's RLTC course (www.delalbright.com/RLTC/rltc.htm). Read web sites that offer information to help you better understand just how serious are the turtles and trains (such as www.muirnet.net and www.sharetrails.org/public_Lands/).

Finally, if you are not in a position to attend meetings and get involved with clubs and organizations, then realize you can do your part by donating to the cause – donate to someone who has the time. Give to an organization that can fight for you. Large trains do not stop on a dime, so we need to start doing everything we can, **now**, to eventually stop this Wilderness Train!

Del

The BlueRibbon Coalition is a national recreation group that champions responsible use of public and private lands, and encourages individual environmental stewardship. It represents over 10,000 individual members and 1,100 organization and business members, for a combined total of over 600,000 recreationists nationwide. Call 1-800-258-3742 and visit BRC online at www.sharetrails.org.

³ *Turtle Island*, by Gary Snyder, 1969; published in book form, 1974, A New Directions book.



For Sale



TJ Rear Dana 44: 4.56 Gears, ARB Locker, Superior 30-spline alloy axles, Tubular Diff Guard, Spidertrax 1.25" wheel spacers, Nth degree pinon guard/slider, lower shock sliders, heavy duty trac bar mount with trac bar to diff support, new brakes shoes, new drums, complete setup, excellent condition. \$2500 OBO. Call Brad at 505-858-0832.

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

**For additional classified ads,
please visit our web site at
www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm**

Club Notes

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

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

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

Submission Due Date: 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 **25th of the prior month**. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Aug 11	Club Meeting at the Turpin's	Call Craig & Mary Turpin	505-254-8748
Aug 17 - 19	Zuni Mountains Trip with Jeeps West	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541
Sep 8 - 9	Mt. Blanca Trip	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Sep 15	Club Meeting at the Cochrane's	Call Rance & Elizabeth	505-896-0878
Oct 2 - 7	Canyonlands, UT Trip	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541

NM4W Officers

<p>President Lauri Rector 228-6547 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Cliff Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Paul Thompson 293-8390 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Jason Lavy 792-8035 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Jan Waugh 250-6962 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
31 La Mirada Rd
Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



September 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From August 11, 2006
by Cliff Meier



Meeting was held at the home of Craig and Mary Turpin. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 6:45pm.

Guests: James Lombard

Members Present: Joe & Crystal Abbate, Glenn Bontly & Jan Montano, Pat & Sue Brady, Rance & Elizabeth Cochrane, Leon Duggar, Eric & Lisa Finch, Jeannie Greven, Tom Hurt, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Chuck & Ethel May Peeples, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Jack & Stella Sierra, Justin Simenson, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Paul & Mary Thompson, Craig & Mary Turpin, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, and Mark & Joan Wolf.

Secretary's Report – Cliff Meier: The new secretary – I did not have a copy of the July minutes so the reading was dispensed with. The minutes were published in the August Trail Tales.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson: The bank balance was \$3,360.79. This included approximately \$1,350 in dues collected for the 2007/2008 year. There are 15-18 members that still need to pay their dues by the end of August or they will be dropped from the club membership.

Paul Thompson sent a beef jerky care package to Jason Martinez who is currently serving in Iraq. The cost was \$44.87. It was approved to have the club reimburse Paul.

An initial budget discussion for next year was held. We need to control our spending to insure the club's funds will support next year's activities, such as the Summer Quarterly. The treasurer will prepare a tentative budget for discussion at the October meeting. This budget will be published in the newsletter by October 1st.

Vice President's Report – Frank G. Whiston: Frank discussed recent and upcoming trips.

All-4-Fun: All-4-Fun was held in Salida, CO by Denver's Mile High Jeep Club Jul 28-Aug 4. NM4Wheelers had 10 members attend. Twenty runs were offered each day.

Canyon Lands: This trip is planned for Oct 2-7. Day-use permit requests are being submitted for Horse and Lavender Canyons. Both canyons limit how many vehicles can access daily, Horse 10 and Lavender 8. Cost for the permits is \$5.00/day/vehicle. Anyone interested in joining Frank needs to contact him as soon as possible.

Jeeps West Zuni Mountains: The trip is scheduled Aug 17-19 and will be headquartered at the Wildlife Association Building at McGaffey Lake. We will camp beside the building. Jeeps West will provide hamburgers and hotdogs for Saturday night dinner. Please bring a dish to share.

Trip Chairman's Report – Jan Waugh: Jan announced that she is looking for club members to lead runs. She will be sending out an e-mail with details.

Lauri Rector announced that a trip needs to be planned to go to the Gordy's Hill staging/camping area for a cleanup during Sep or Oct. Possibly a day for cleanup and a day for trail running. She also announced that she was planning a "Chic" Challenge run in Sep or Oct possibly to Caja del Rio/La Bajada Hill.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Mark was not able to attend the meeting, but gave Wolfie a report to present. Mark has been sending out a series of e-mails with the status of the Santa Fe National Forest Travel Management process and updates on the latest series of workshops. The draft route designations included most of our routes. Routes included were Tank Trap, Hill and Dale, Joaquin Canyon, Schoolhouse Mesa (route from Porter Landing), and Cat Mesa. Routes not included were La Ventana Mesa, San Miguel Mountain, Virgin Canyon, Smokey Bear Hill, Holiday Mesa (route from crossing to the mesa top). Work needs to be done on those routes not included to get them added. The primary message was that we did not ask for enough. It is not too late to provide additional routes.

Additional information was provided on the National Forest Travel Management efforts for the Sandia Ranger District and the Cibola National Forest. The 4 wheel drive folks seem to be severely under-served. The La Madera area has some outstanding possibilities, but is shown as completely closed to motorized use in the draft proposal. Bob Telepak has done an outstanding job representing the club on the collaboration team. Bob and Mark are working aggressively to get the La Madera area included. Cibola has been watching how the process is working in the Sandia District to decide how to proceed in the other districts. We have been asked by the Mt. Taylor District to identify trails.

The Socorro BLM Office is considering the inputs they received on their draft Resource Management Plan. The final version is expected out later this year.

Program Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy: The program Chairman was not at the meeting, but had made arrangements for the 50/50 raffle.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin is putting together a club history book for our 50th year anniversary. The cost estimate will be about \$40-50 per copy. Members were asked to send Justin any pictures that could be included. Old pictures from the club's early days are especially needed.

Our EarthLink picture account is expiring. Justin is researching setting up Goggle account. More information will be e-mailed to members.

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: No report.

Old Business: Wolfie thanked everyone for doing an excellent job cleaning up after the July meeting/picnic. He also announced that he will be getting the 50th Anniversary committee going. Because he is working out of town, meetings will have to be on weekends.

Members who have not paid their dues for next year need to do so by the end of August.

New Business: James Lombard was voted in as a new member.

The Turpins were thanked for hosting the meeting and Lauri thanked the new officers for serving.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Winner of the 50/50 drawing: The Turpins had donated 2 dozen home produced eggs for the drawing. The 50/50 drawing also included 1 dozen eggs and was won by Tom Hurt. The winner of the second dozen eggs was Glenn Bontly & Jan Montano.

Money collected for sale of NM4W logo items: No items were sold.



President's Report

By Lauri Rector

Welcome to the end of summer!!! I think that this is the 1st year that I have actually looked forward to fall and cooler temperatures (they say this is an old lady thing). We've finally figured out how to keep the house cool during the day – but after the 1st day, the swamp cooler seems to be on its last leg. I'm hoping that it holds for the last of the hot days of summer.

With cooler temperatures around the corner, I hope that our event schedule starts filling up!!! I'm tired of doing home improvement projects and I can't think of a better way of taking a break from that than filling up my weekends with some wheeling. Hopefully I will be one of the ones to kick that off by asking Glenn to post 2 trips. I think that I've got the weekends picked out and should be sending out an email before anyone even reads this.

I may be stepping on the toes of our very valuable and very hard working Director of Environmental Affairs, but I do have to say a few words. Our Citizen's Proposal was not distributed to all districts of the SFNF. We are missing trails in the Cuba and Espanola districts. Mark Werkmeister has just recently been able to put that proposal in their hands. But, as of right now, the Caja del Rio (more commonly known as the blow hole and/or chic challenge trail) and a leg of La Ventana trails, as well as the road to our camping spot at Porter Landing will not be open as of 1/1/10. Also, the crossing through the river to Holiday Mesa (also in the Porter Landing area) is not on the proposed maps. And quite a few other trails that are important to the club. There was a good turnout (but not from our club) at the SFNF Phase III meeting in Albuquerque – so it made it hard to get to the few forest rangers that were in attendance to discuss these items with us.

I really want to thank all of my officers. All of them seem to have some really good ideas and some are already being put into action. I really think that this is going to be a great year for our club with all these ideas and the enthusiasm to put them into action. It should be like a snowball rolling downhill!!!

Member Spotlight: Rance & Elizabeth Cochrane

By Joan Wolf



The Cochranes and I visited after getting off the trail at the Zuni Mountain run. The Jeeps West chefs had fed NM4W a five-course breakfast and then led us around the cool pine forests of the Zunis. Now back at camp, we were resting up for the evening potluck. Ahh, life is good.

The Cochranes joined NM4W about one year ago. Though Rance is that rare breed, a Corrales native, he was at a Moab Jeep Jamboree when he first heard about NM4W. He got acquainted with Carlos Tanner who

invited him to a club meeting. A later-discovered connection was that Beth Whiston and Elizabeth's daughter are friends and they once taught at the same school.

Over the years Rance owned a Scout and a Bronco, but had never done much trail driving. In 1996, he bought his '94 Wrangler YJ. Wanting to use it, he and Elizabeth started attending Jeep Jamborees in such places as Ouray, Red River, and Moab. That was fun, but they're very happy to be going on cheaper, closer-to-home runs with NM4W.

It's a juggling act for Rance and Elizabeth to balance Jeep trips with their jobs, church, and family. Between them they have 7 children and 11 grandchildren. Their children are mostly grown and out of the house. The grandkids range in age from 9 months to 13 years and are spread out in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.

Rance's parents still live in Corrales. Elizabeth spent half her growing-up years in Larned, KS and the other half in Carlsbad. For the past year, Elizabeth has been caring for her seriously-ill mother in Carlsbad. After obtaining a one-year leave of absence from work, Elizabeth has alternated two weeks in Carlsbad and two weeks back home in Rio Rancho. It's been a grueling schedule, yet Elizabeth is grateful for the time with her mother.

The Cochranes live in the oldest section of Rio Rancho and have a menagerie of two dogs, one rooster, and eight Rhode Island Red laying hens. The chickens are "good producers" and keep the Cochranes and all their neighbors supplied with fresh eggs. The Cochranes try to keep life simple. For example, no home computer for the past three years, no dishwasher, and the clothes line is preferred over the dryer. Rance has a garden and they get much of their meat from the elk and deer that he hunts.

Rance is a great cook and his forte is feeding large groups. He nonchalantly says, "I can feed 200 people at once." At last Spring's open house for the Ponderosa Christian Camp, Rance cooked 500 pounds of brisket! In mid-August he'll cook breakfast for 100 men at a men's retreat. It'll be a "manly" breakfast, no quiche allowed.

Both Elizabeth and Rance are active in their church, Riverside Church of Christ. They help with youth groups, team-teach, and do whatever else is needed. Rance accompanies the church youth group on an annual mission trip to Mexico. Last year they built a house in southern Juarez for a needy family. Rance is a carpenter so his skills were appreciated.

Although carpentry is his trade, Rance likes concrete work the best and owned his own concrete business for awhile. He currently works for Engineering Constructors, Inc (ECI). ECI works solely at Kirtland AFB and Rance is a superintendent over 2-12 people. Although his main job duty is project coordination, he loves to work with his hands and gets them dirty whenever the project allows.

In September, Elizabeth returns to her job as an Educational Assistant at Cibola High School. For the past 18 years she's worked with special needs kids at Cibola. "It's a ministry more than a job. I love the kids and I love being with them," Elizabeth explains. For relaxation, she enjoys knitting, quilting, and reading. Elizabeth likes antiques and has a collection of 60 old bottles. She's identified the age of glass bottles found in the woods or near homesteads on several of our NM4W runs.

Rance learned automotive skills by working on hot rods as a kid. Now he enjoys working on his YJ. At purchase, it was a 4-cylinder. "I couldn't leave well-enough alone," laughs Rance. So he swapped out parts from an '87 Dodge Ram pickup: axles, engine, transmission, and transfer case. The transformed YJ is now has a V-8, 4.56 gears, 4" lift suspension, 3" body lift, and 37" tires. They're saving money for lockers, and later, a full roll cage. Rance and a friend did the custom black-on-white paint job at his friend's garage. They changed the color scheme, but copied the geometric design from a Jeep on a Currie calendar.

When he gets lockers, Rance wants to run the Moab Rim trail and the Rubicon. He laments that his all-time favorite trail, Middle Fork Lake at Red River, is closed. It was difficult yet scenic. Any other favorite trails? Rance says he'd love to go to Moab every week! Elizabeth thinks every area has been beautiful in its own way, but she singles out Ouray as her favorite place.

The Cochranes are hosting the September 15 meeting at their Rio Rancho home. Hope everyone can take this generous couple up on their hospitality.

Request for GPS & Trail Info for the Mountainair Area

By Bob Telepak

As many in the club know, I have been a Working Group member representing the NM4W for the Travel Management Plan for the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest. That project is now over and a proposed route designation map with alternatives will be out for public comment in 1-2 months. We will continue to fight for trails there, including the La Madera area in the north.

The Mountainair Ranger District is the next one to be considered. Mark Werkmeister has asked me to be the club coordinator for the Mountainair District. There is a 1999 Forest Service map, but no "starting point route map" yet, and it may not be available for several months. I will be meeting with the Mountainair District Ranger, Karen Lessard, at the end of August to get as much information as I can.

In the meanwhile I will try to collect as much information as possible on my own, and with club members' help. Mountainair likely is the least visited of the Cibola districts by club members. I am asking for assistance and input from all club members who know about trails (and hopefully have GPS data) in the Mountainair District, or are interested in going there to explore.

The Mountainair District has 2 main areas which are separated from each other. The larger one is in the Monzano Mountains from west of Mountainair to northwest of Tajique. It includes the Torreon-Tajique Loop Road in the north, the Capilla Peak Road in the middle, and a large area with lots of roads in the southern half.

The smaller Mountainair area is southeast of Mountainair and south of Hwy 42, which goes from Willard to Corona. It includes the Gallinas Peak area.

Please help out all you can. Contact me with Mountainair information by e-mail at telepak@unm.edu, or leave a message on my answering machine at 869-8117.

Bob Telepak

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

Hello everyone!

My main topic this month is the Santa Fe National Forest Travel Management Plan. This past week, there were workshops/meetings in Cuba, Jemez, and Albuquerque. This leaves only the meeting in Los Alamos on Sept 6th for this particular round of meetings.

I must say that I was disappointed in the turn-out from the club during these last three meetings. Counting myself there was only 1 member in Cuba, 2 members in Jemez, and four families represented in Albuquerque. Technically, I guess that attendance at meetings isn't mandatory if you are making your trail desires known in other ways, but I fear that isn't happening either.

I know that many of you are getting really tired of this struggle to keep our trails open. I also think that in some respects, the process is designed to wear us out so they can say, "See? They didn't show up, how important can their trails be?" It would be a shame to come so far and run out of steam at this key time. Don't get me wrong, there is a loooooong way to go in the process yet, but some pieces of it are more important than others. I take it as one of my duties as your Environmental Chair to let you know when I think we are at an important point. ***NM4W'ers, we are at an important point!!!***

Frank's late night (or early morning) note did a real good job of capturing the important trail segments that we are going to lose as the process stands right now. A few of us are doing our best to get the FS to change their mind, but it will really help if more people weigh in on these particular issues. With kudos to Frank, here is a reprint of most of Frank's message (I have inserted which particular Forest District has jurisdiction over the particular trail segments):

A map displaying the SFNF Proposed Action is now online and I urge you to review it for yourself and comment on trails and areas that are important to you. It is a 5.2MB pdf file, so it is not dialup friendly. [Right Click here](#) and select "save target as".

I attended the Phase III Travel Management Workshop here in Albuquerque last night and I want to share some of my observations that the Forest Service needs to hear comments on.

- Roads highlighted in yellow on the map linked above are the only areas where [dispersed camping](#) is allowed (Click on the link for definition). The SFNF Proposed Action does not include the area that our club regularly uses as a campsite on FR534 near Porter Landing. **Your Comments needed if you would like to be able to camp here in the future! (Jemez District – Mike Dechter)**
- The San Miguel Mountain Trail is not included in the SFNF Proposed Action. **Your Comments needed if you would like to be able to drive this trail in the future! (Cuba District – David Allen)**
- The large outer loop of the Smokey Bear Hill Group is missing. Not only does this eliminate a great loop, it also eliminates a link to FR20 along the West side of the Girl Scout Camp and the upper end of the Rio De Las Vacas. **Your Comments needed if you would like to be able to drive this trail in the future! (Cuba District – David Allen)**
- The road from FR376 that crosses the Rio Guadalupe and climbs onto Holiday Mesa is not included in the SFNF Proposed Action. **Your Comments needed if you would like to be able to drive this trail in the future! (Jemez District – Mike Dechter)**
- The road that runs down Virgin Canyon is not included in the SFNF Proposed Action. **Your Comments needed if you would like to be able to drive this trail in the future! (Jemez District – Mike Dechter)**
- Much of the Caja Del Rio route, including the blow hole, is not included in the SFNF Proposed Action. **Your Comments needed if you would like to be able to drive this trail in the future! (Espanola District – Miles Standish)**
- The portion of the La Ventana trail that enters the SFNF is not included in the SFNF Proposed Action. **Your Comments needed if you would like to be able to drive this trail in the future! (Cuba District – David Allen)**

Okay! Here is what to do: In addition to sending in your little yellow Forest Service comment form (also available electronically on the website), **we need as many members as possible to contact the particular Districts directly.** If you want to send your comments electronically or via US mail, the addresses are below. Address the comments to the names below and SEND A COPY TO ROB POTTS (address also below).

Just tell them why the particular route or routes are important to you, tell them that our club is willing and able to help provide any necessary mitigation, sign installation, trail monitoring, or adoption necessary.

Even better yet, call the District offices and arrange a meeting with the people listed for each District. The FS employees are human and direct personal contact is even better for getting our point across than letters or phone calls. Offer to meet them in the field or take them on a field trip on the affected trails!

Don't give up! If we lose these trails now it will be almost impossible to get them back later on. An hour's or a day's ride now will be much less effort than what it will take to get these trails back in the future.

Espanola Ranger District (Caja Del Rio Trails) –

Miles Standish
Espanola Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest
1710 N. Riverside Drive
Española, NM 87532
Office Phone: 505-753-7331
Email: mstandish@fs.fed.gov

Jemez Ranger District (Most of our Jemez Trails) –

Mike Dechter
Jemez Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest
P.O. Box 150
Jemez Springs, NM 87025
Email: mdechter@fs.fed.gov

Cuba Ranger District (San Miguel Mountain, La Ventana, Smokey Bear Hill Trails) –

David Allen
Cuba Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest
P.O. Box 130
Cuba, NM 87013
Office Phone: 505-289-3264
Email: davidlallen@fs.fed.gov

Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor's Office (***Copy on all of the contact!***)

Rob Potts
Forest Planner
Santa Fe National Forest
1474 Rodeo Road
Santa Fe, NM 87505
Office phone: (505) 438-7829

And finally, please let me know if and when you send a letter, email, make a phone call, or visit with the Ranger Districts. ***I will keep the pressure on, but I can't do it without all of you!***

Call me or email me with any questions.

Thanks.

Mark
NM4W DEA

41st Annual All-4-Fun

By Frank G. Whiston

The 41st annual [All-4-Fun](#) was held near Salida, CO July 29 thru August 3, 2007. For 41 years, [Mile High Jeep Club](#) has done this event in various locations in Colorado. NM4W members in attendance included the Grevens, Meiers, Jureys, and both sets of Whistons. NM4W guests included Don and Sarah Walker of Farmington, NM, and the Lombards who were voted in as members at the August meeting. It was a great week. There was just enough rain to keep the dust settled and keep things from getting too hot. The Jureys are also members of Patrol 12 of MHJC (the fugowie's) and volunteered to lead trips at the event. Hmmm, should we follow this guy that is associated with a group with this kind of name? Add the words "where the" in front of the patrol's name and you will understand my questioning.

This year, All-4-Fun was quite large with around 375 registered drivers and 999 registered participants. They even had people from New Zealand, Canada, and Hawaii in attendance. We have made friends from all over the country by attending this event. With that and several family members along, it was nearly impossible to sign up for trips as a club. So we all had different experiences on trips.

Sunday was the first trips and I hesitated too long to sign up, so I chose to lead a group on my own. We did Hancock, Cumberland, and Tin Cup passes. James Lombard showed us the capabilities of his mildly modified Liberty on Old Tin Cup. Good Job James! Monday we were able to get signed up and did the Mary Murphy Mine/Pomoroy Lake trail. Tuesday, the Jureys were leading Iron Chest, so all of the Whistons and friends signed up for that one. I was relieved that Keith never had to say "where the ___". If he had, that would have been a fine. After



lunch at the top, we all made our way back down thru the rock garden. An afternoon shower made things interesting as we slid down from rock to rock. I was able to find a good flex rock and Frank Sr. found that his new JK needs more ground clearance. Back at camp, we all enjoyed an Ice Cream Social sponsored by Bestop.



Wednesday was reserved for a parade through town, kids' games, a show-n-shine, and vendor displays. Hot dogs were provided for lunch and a barbeque for dinner catered by a Buena Vista establishment. Thursday we took it easy and drove Fooses Creek to the top of Monarch pass. After that, we ran up and back to Bross Lake. That night was door prize night and the raffle benefiting COHVCO and the children's hospital. Congratulations to Keith on winning a set of tires in the raffle. We saved the most challenging for last. Friday we ran Chinaman's gulch. There was

evidence of ~3 feet of water running in the gulch the night before. Our trip leader had never seen the trail that eroded. It did not seem to provide too much of a challenge for most of the rigs, so it was a long, but enjoyable day. That night there was a hamburger dinner and dance, and Warn gave away

some valuable products. Congratulations to Erwin on winning an ATV winch. If only he had an ATV. Maybe he can use it as a trailer winch.

McMillan Canyon Run

By Paul Thompson

Thirteen vehicles gathered early Sunday morning for an impromptu easy run to the Jemez Mountains. We departed from the Conoco station at 528 and 550 promptly at 8:00 am to get out of town and into the higher elevations before the summer heat could catch up with us. After a brief restroom break at the Walatowa Visitor Center and an air-down stop just past the Gilman Tunnels, we headed up FR 376 and 539 to the entrance to McMillan Canyon. (The McMillan Canyon Trail was cleared earlier this summer after being blocked by downed trees for several years.) Our progress was briefly halted just as we entered the canyon, when one of our guest drivers experienced some front driveline interference after shifting into 4 wheel drive (it was his first time he had engaged his 4WD since installing a lift.). But some quick trail modifications administered by the driver and several of our members got us back in motion in a few minutes. We proceeded most of the distance up the canyon without incident, except for complaints by some that the trail did not live up to its billing as “easy”. Actually, everyone (including drivers of limited experience and some with near-stock vehicles) did very well negotiating the rocks and uneven terrain. The first serious obstacle encountered was a fallen aspen tree lying across the trail a few hundred yards from the top of the ridge and the end of the trail. We could have turned around at this point and headed directly to our lunch stop, but, as the trail leader wanted to try out his new chain saw, we proceeded to clear the barrier. Once done, we made our way to the summit. There we encountered a rather complicated turn-around maneuver that left the trail leader at the back of the line – oops. With some effort, we had reestablished the correct vehicle order and made our way to a picturesque meadow for lunch. Everyone enjoyed a relaxing lunch break, for say, three minutes . . . then the rain started! As light rain fell, we each found our own “wetness threshold” before returning to our vehicles. The rain intensified as we descended the mountain and precluded us from any further trail riding. With some reluctance, we decided there was no choice but to start home a little earlier than planned. A few of us ended the day with fry bread at Walatowa.

Members participating were Jan Waugh and son Tim, Mary Turpin and guest Cathy Arlowe, Erwin & Jeanie Greven, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Pat & Sue Brady, Chuck & Ethel May Peeples, and Paul & Mary Thompson. Guests included Sam Gershin, Matthew Tuite, Todd Sweeney, Russ Kaz, and Mark Smith.



For Sale



1979 F250 4x4, with D60 Rear & D44 Front, perfect upgrade axles! Will run with some Carb work. Whole Truck \$1,500.00. Call Derren at 505-892-6310.

Honda eu2000i Generator: Super quiet, inverter technology, 2000VA max. About 1 year old, used very few times. See www.hondapowerequipment.com/ModelDetail.asp?ModelName=eu2000i for more info. \$800. Call Paul Thompson at 505-293-8390.

TJ Rear Dana 44: 4.56 Gears, ARB Locker, Superior 30-spline alloy axles, Tubular Diff Guard, Spidertrax 1.25" wheel spacers, Nth degree pinon guard/slider, lower shock sliders, heavy duty trac bar mount with trac bar to diff support, new brakes shoes, new drums, complete setup, excellent condition. \$2500 OBO. Call Brad at 505-858-0832.

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

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

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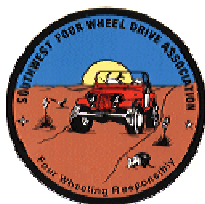
Schedule of Events

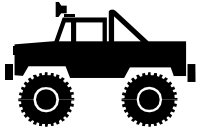
Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Sep 8 - 9	Mt. Blanca Trip	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Sep 15	Club Meeting at the Cochrane's	Call Rance & Elizabeth	505-896-0878
Sep 28 – 29	Red River Trip	Call Tom Hurt	505-994-2515
Oct 2 – 7	Canyonlands, UT Trip	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541

NM4W Officers

President Lauri Rector 228-6547 President@nm4w.org	Vice-President Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 Vice-president@nm4w.org	Secretary Cliff Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org
Treasurer Paul Thompson 293-8390 Treasurer@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Jason Lavy 792-8035 Program-chairman@nm4w.org	Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jan Waugh 250-6962 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!

Trail Tales
 31 La Mirada Rd
 Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



October 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From September 15, 2006
by Cliff Meier



Meeting was held at the home of Rance and Elizabeth Cochrane. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Guests: Tahoe Zahn and Eric Garcia

Members Present: Glenn Bontly & Jan Montano, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Rance & Elizabeth Cochrane, Jeannie Greven, Tom Hurt, Jason & Sara Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Tim & Pat Nash, Chuck & Ethel May Peeples, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Justin Simenson, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Paul & Mary Thompson, Craig & Mary Turpin, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, and Mark & Joan Wolf.

Secretary's Report – Cliff Meier: A motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the August minutes. The August minutes were published in the September Trails Tales newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson: The bank balance was \$4,281.

Paul raised a concern that many, if not all, members that have been fined for violating club rules, etiquette, etc had not been paying. Therefore he suggested a new fine collection process be implemented. This would have the fined member immediately place the amount of the fine in a "red" coffee can to be located at the front of the meeting where the president could oversee it. This suggestion was accepted and the "red" can process was in place for the meeting.

Several fines were imposed to test the new process. The first was your Secretary who forgot to bring the sign-in sheet to the meeting – 25 cents. Second was Chuck Peeples for having the hood to the Scrambler up during the Zuni trip, thus delaying the trip – 25 cents. A comment was made that was not uncommon. Third was Vance Cochrane for overheating and possible environmental damage during the Zuni trip – 25 cents. Fourth was Mary Thompson for inadequate performing her co-pilots duties – 25 cents. Next was Wolfie for getting high centered during the Jemez trip – the fine amount was 25 cents, but Wolfie coughed up \$1.50 for this fine and future yet to be named transgressions. Lastly, Paul Caskey was fined for having his car alarm go off 6 times during the Mt Blanca trip-\$1.50. This was significant transgression because Paul did not even know he had an alarm!

Vice President's Report – Frank G. Whiston: Frank explained the membership point system and discussed recent and upcoming trips. The current point spreadsheet was available for members to review.

Jeep West Zuni Mountains: A thank you card was passed around for members to sign.

Trip Chairman's Report – Jan Waugh: A trail list was sent out last month. Based on member's comments, the trail list will be maintained in the member's only section of the website.

Jan asked if there was any interest in a GPS clinic. Possible areas to be covered could be how to use and how to up/down load from and to a PC. Some members expressed interest. Need to find someone to teach.

Past Events:

- a. McMillian Canyon, Jemez – August 26. The trip was led by Paul Thompson with thirteen vehicles participating.
- b. Cedro Peak – September 8. The trip was led by Glenn Bontly. This was a night trip and was very well attended.
- c. Mt. Blanca – September 8. Pat Brady led the trip. The weather was great, but a storm blew in after everyone left. Pat reported that the trail has evolved, some of the Jaws obstacles have gotten more difficult and some have gotten easier.
- d. Jemez Hill and Dale Trail- Aug 9. Led by Wolfie and Tom Hurt. The goal of the trip to find a possible reroute around a wet lands area. More investigating needs to be done in the area.
- e. Jemez – September 14. Paul Thompson and Tom Hurt took Jemez Ranger district personnel on a familiarization run on several of the trails. Some of the areas visited were the Porter Landing water crossing and the camping area the club uses.

Upcoming Events:

- a. Cuba Ranger District Personnel Familiarization Meeting & Field Trip – September 27. Paul asked if any club members were interested in meeting and/or a field trip ride with the Cuba Ranger District. Cliff and Frank expressed interest.
- b. Red River – September 28 & 29. This annual event will be led by Tom Hurt.
- c. Gordy's Hill Staging/Camping Area Clean Up– September 29 & 30
- d. Needles District, Canyon Lands – October 2-6. Led by Frank G. Whiston. Day use permits for Horse and Lavender Canyons have been received. The club has filled up both days.
- e. Chic Challenge -- Caja del Rio/La Bajada – October 20. Led by Lauri Rector.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Mark was not able to attend the meeting but gave Wolfie a report to be presented.

There has been a lot going on with the Travel Management Planning process on both the Cibola and Santa Fe National Forests.

Cibola – The Sandia Ranger District is working up the proposed and the alternatives. We continue to work to influence the decision on La Madera. It appears that Mt. Taylor and the Mountainair Districts will be going through the process at the same time. Bob Telepak has taken on the role of coordinating with the Mountainair District. Get a hold of Bob if you want to help. We need help from club members for Mt. Taylor. A visitor to one of the club meetings has volunteered to help, but also need club members.

SF National Forest – A meeting was held with Mike Dechter of the Jemez District again for a field trip with Paul Thompson and Tom Hurt. We are trying to get the District to reconsider their decisions on some of the club's favorite trails. Paul is going to work with the Cuba District and Laurie is doing the same thing with the Caja del Rio route to the blowhole. Both could use some help.

Please continue to read and respond to the various e-mail alerts that I have sent out on both the Cibola and SF Forest efforts. I really appreciate the efforts of the club members who have stepped up to the challenge by attending meetings and field trips, writing letters, calling District offices, etc. The club owes them a lot.

Program Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy: Tickets were sold for the 50/50 raffle. T-shirts, sweatshirts, stickers, and pins were for sale. Jason said it was time to order more stuff. A motion was made and passed for \$250 to fund the order. See Jason you are interested.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin is putting together a club history book for our 50th year anniversary. Members were asked to send Jason any pictures that could be included. Old pictures from the club's early days are especially needed. Also, the "G" mail website is up. Check with Justin for help on getting pictures on the website.

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Nothing to report.

Old Business: Wolfie reported that the 50th Anniversary committee met. Frank designed several versions for the anniversary logo. The club members voted to select the one to be used. Laurye Tanner will publish an 18 month calendar. There will be 2-3 events next year that will be part of the 50th year anniversary. At this time there is not an estimate how much money will be needed to fund the anniversary events. The next committee meeting will be in October, date to be determined.

The gift certificate for last year's point's winner, Wolfie, was awarded.

The award for NM4Wheeler of the year, 2007, could not be presented because the winner was not at the meeting.

New Business: Don and Sara Walker were voted in as new associate members. They live in Farmington, but have been active in several clubs events this year.

Frank G. Whiston reported that contact was made with the New Mexico Council of Car Clubs. We used to be a member, but had been dropped from their membership list. A motion was made and passed to rejoin (\$10 fee). Frank talked with a member of the Council, he suggested that we make a proposal to the Council to advertise our anniversary at their annual car show. Frank volunteered to attend their meeting and present the proposal. The Council has a monthly newsletter. It was decided to get a copy to review the content before deciding if we want to be on distribution for it.

The club needs to be thinking about a trip next year to reciprocate for the Jeeps West trip this year. Members need to recommend areas to put the event on in.

It's time to start planning for the 2008 Summer Quarterly. It is the club's turn to host the event. Wolfie volunteered to chair the event. Several possible Colorado locations were mentioned; Creede, Salida, and Grand Junction. Wolfie will send out an e-mail with planning details. Volunteers will be needed to lead several committees.

There is a new Jeep parts/accessories vendor in Albuquerque, Jeepers Paradise. Their cards and stickers were available.

The Cochrane's were thanked for hosting the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.



President's Report

By Lauri Rector

I can't believe I'm writing the President's Report for the October edition of the Trail Tails. Summer is over and fall is here. Winter could be right around the corner.

I had the chance to see some of all of the clubs scrap/picture books. What an amazing history this club has had for the last 49 years. To be looking at things that were recorded back in 1958 and 1959 – the 1st year of the club made me really realize how long this club has sustained itself, and thrived as well. This goes back to before I was born and I'm getting to be what most people would call old. It was really neat to see pictures of runs that we still do today – almost 50 years later. It also made me realize just what an honor it is to be the president of such a club. I hope that I can do as much to live up to the office as the 1st president did.

Our 50 year anniversary committee is off to really great start in planning activities to celebrate. If I may, I would like to speak for the whole club and thank them for the time they have dedicated to this so far. I think that there will be a lot of fun things coming in the next year.

That's all for this month. Hope to see you all somewhere on the trail!!!

2nd Zuni Mountain Camp-Out, August 27-29, 2007 A Trip to Gallup, NM with our Friends from Jeeps West

By Mark Wolf



In early June, Jim Todt of the Jeeps West crew e-mailed our fearless Trip Leader, Frank G. Whiston and asked if we would be interested in getting a run together with them near Gallup, NM. It took very little for us to all say "YES"! The last time we were there, we all were humbled by their hospitality. They were unbelievable in what they were able to accomplish with so few members. If they were only half as good, we would be treated with the proverbial "silver spoon".

We had a bigger club turnout than the 1st Zuni Mountain Camp-out in 2003. The 2007 attendees were the Turpin and Lombard families, Jan and her son Tim Waugh and a guest, the People's, Thompson's, Meier's, Grevin's, Cochrane's, and Wolf's, along with Phil Rodacy, Carlos Tanner, Paul Caskey, and the Walker's (guests) from Farmington.

Saturday morning started with the smell of good food drifting through the air. Just about all of the NM4W's arrived at the Quonset hut to get in line for some of the good stuff! Most everybody that is! Jan and Tim didn't know they were to be served breakfast and missed out. Boy was the food

good! They had scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, hash brown potatoes, coffee, juice, and milk. What a feast!

After breakfast we lined up and completed the obligatory “liability release” form. Then we headed out for the day’s run through the green, cool Zuni Mountain woods. I believe there were 21 vehicles participating. Several of the Jeeps West crew were interspersed with our group to keep us going and to make sure that everyone made it ok. The trip was awesome! They took us through some of the most beautiful scenery available in New Mexico! The trail was not difficult, but required 4WD.



When noon came around, we stopped at “Cadillac Lake” to have lunch. The lake is named for an abandoned vehicle parked there that everyone thinks is a Cadillac (about a 1916 model?). Even if it’s not, no one in this group could argue one way or the other. About an hour later, we all loaded back up and headed off for more trail adventures.

We continued in a northerly direction, making a loop to the north and east. We eventually returned back to the very spot that in 2003 Marcia Duggar in her basically-stock XJ made the hard core guys look ridiculous. After most tried the “play area” (with the rest of us as onlookers), the group split in two. Some continued on towards a harder path and the rest of us kicked back and enjoyed a scenic drive through the woods to the overlook. The hard group finally made it to our overlook spot. Far below we could see Forest Route 50 and an elk-refuge type ranch, as well as beautiful vistas far to the south.



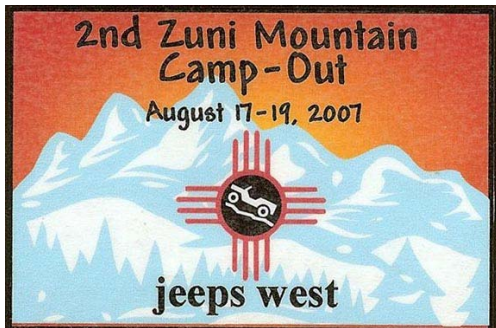
After a nice break, we headed back towards the east, finally turning south to the main road. We then turned west towards camp and headed back. Most rested for a little while, and then eventually carried our “side dishes” to the Quonset hut for the evening meal. The Jeeps West crew once again made us some really good vittles. I don’t think anyone starved. I think more just plain ate too much! I know I did! And it was delicious!

As soon as the dining was over, the Jeeps West crew held a raffle and sold extra tickets for those who wanted to better their chances. Most of the NM4W crew bought extra tickets as much to support Jeeps West as to win prizes. But NW4W’ers did enjoy winning such loot as an Optima battery and a horse-hair

piece of pottery (that the women got excited about). I won Jeep floor mats that will certainly spiff up my Jeepster pickup.

When the Jeeps West raffle ended, NM4W held a raffle exclusive to the Jeeps West members. Our modest goodies (including gift certificates donated by Cliff Meier and Erwin Greven) were appreciated by our hosts. Thanks to both the Jeeps West and NM4W members and guests for making this a fun raffle.

Since there were plenty of leftover breakfast ingredients (eggs, bacon, etc), Jeeps West offered the use of the Quonset hut stoves and grills if we wanted to make our own breakfast on Sunday. About seven NM4W members and guests made the next morning's meal. It was the same menu as the day before, but no one complained. The food was once again excellent and a big thanks goes out to all of those who cooked and served.



After breakfast, everyone got busy and helped with the clean-up. We scoured the stoves, swept the Quonset hut, hosed down the picnic area, and put away the tables and chairs. I hope we impressed the Jeeps West crew because we tried to leave the area cleaner than when we came.

Thanks for attending; I believe we made a big impression on Jeeps West with our enthusiasm and gratitude. I know they impressed us, *again!*

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs
By Mark Werkmeister

Greetings to all club members!

Our club's work with the Forest Service goes on in both the Cibola and Santa Fe National Forests. If you haven't sent in letters addressing your concerns with their proposed trail system, don't delay any longer! Do it **NOW!**

We are still meeting with the various District offices within the Santa Fe for field trips and continue to work a productive relationship with them. The latest word is that the process is perhaps being delayed another six weeks with a new schedule being presented to the Forest management team today (Sept. 24th). We still need to do some route finding in the Jemez (talk to Tom Hurt if you want to help). I am also meeting with the Cibola next Friday (Oct 5th) for more discussion on the La Madera area. The work goes on!

With that being said, I want everyone to starting to think about the future of four wheeling in both the Santa Fe and Cibola National Forests. And this time, I am not talking about attending meetings or writing letters during the current NEPA process. No, this time I am talking about what happens when the local Travel Management Plans are complete, the new maps are printed up and distributed, and we are living with our 'new' trail system. Maybe start playing again instead of going to all those meetings, right?!?

Well, yes and no. Yes, we will have a trail system for motorized recreation on the National Forests. Yes, the maps will be printed and we will be forced to limit our activities to a system of designated roads and trails. But in a lot of respects, the real work starts with completed map of the 'new' system. First of all, the Forest Service is going to need help, lots of help, from our club and other motorized users to implement and administer the designated system successfully. In addition to helping educate other users by staying on the designated system, they are going to need help installing signage, creating other funding sources (think Recreational Trails Program grants), finding volunteer labor to mitigate concerns, adopt trails, etc. I think everyone knows this, but I wanted to be sure that the club knows that we will own part of the responsibility for maintaining the system once it gets designated. Our club has always been willing to help the agencies provide recreational opportunities and I am positive that the future will continue our club's proud tradition.

The second piece of 'real work' is probably harder, but much more exciting. We have probably been most focused (and worried) about what might happen to the designated trails system if it gets abused by the public. Additional closures, right? We need to do everything we can to ensure that doesn't happen, but the flip side is opportunity. Opportunity? Yes! It goes like this:

The Travel Management Rule finally gives the Forest Service clear and un-ambivalent direction on managing the Forest for motorized recreation. Part of that direction is assessing the system and whether it is meeting the needs of both resource protection and the recreational need. We will have an ongoing opportunity to continue to shape the designated system to meet the needs of the motorized community. Need more trails to meet an increasing need? The Travel Management Rule allows us to propose additional routes for consideration. Need better connectors to link the trails together? The Travel Management Rule allows us to propose additional loops. Need better signage or better trailhead facilities? Yes....you get the idea.

Obviously, it will take a lot more than just 'requesting' these things to make them happen. The current reality of the Forest Service budget is that without the users taking up the slack, there just isn't money to do everything that could be done. So, that circles the discussion back around to our club and other users being really involved with the Forest Service in the active management of the designated system. It will be, in large part, up to us and our fellow users to make the designated systems a success by volunteering our time and talents. This means doing a lot more than just writing letters, showing up at meetings, and monitoring the Forest Service's activities. Think more like our almost 2500 hours of volunteer labor with the BLM for Gordy's Hill. But that is the good news. That type of work can really be FUN. The more we work at it, the more we can enjoy the routes and trails on the forest. Working a saw or shovel or GPS out on the trail is a LOT more fun than going to meetings any day!

Your DEA,
Mark



For Sale



TJ Rear Dana 44: 4.56 Gears, ARB Locker, Superior 30-spline alloy axles, Tubular Diff Guard, Spidertrax 1.25" wheel spacers, Nth degree pinon guard/slider, lower shock sliders, heavy duty trac bar mount with trac bar to diff support, new brakes shoes, new drums, complete setup, excellent condition. \$2500 OBO. Call Brad at 505-858-0832.

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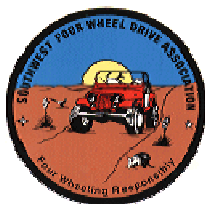
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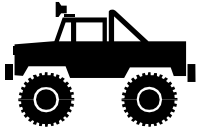
Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Oct 2 – 7	Canyonlands, UT Trip	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541
Oct 11	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-891-8517
Oct 27	“Chic” Challenge to Caja del Rio	Call Lauri Rector	505-891-8517
Nov 8	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-891-8517

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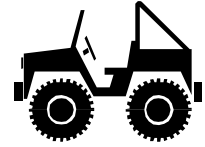
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Trail Tales
 31 La Mirada Rd
 Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



November 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From October 11, 2006
by Cliff Meier



Meeting was held at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Guests: Tahoe Zahn, Larue Ritter, Chris Sears, Russ Kaz, Robert & Hollie Hohlfelder, Jeff Atchison, and Stuart Tefft.

Members Present: Glenn Bontly & Jan Montano, Pat & Sue Brady, Rance & Elizabeth Cochrane, Leon & Marcia Duggar, Tom Hurt, Keith & Linda Jury, Ed Kusche, Jason & Sara Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Jerry & Mary Moran, Chuck Peoples, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Justin Simonon, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Paul & Scott Thompson, Jan Waugh, Mark & Joanne Werkmeister, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, and Mark & Joan Wolf.

Secretary's Report – Cliff Meier: A motion was made and passed to dispense with the reading of the corrected September minutes. The minutes were published in the October Trails Tales.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson: The bank balance is \$4,057.44.

Vice President's Report – Frank G. Whiston: Frank explained the membership point system and discussed recent Needles District trip. The current point spreadsheet was available for members to review.

Trip Chairman's Report – Jan Waugh: The question was asked what made an official club run. The rule in the past was that there had to be at least 2 club vehicles and the trip had to be announced by e-mail or in the Trail Tales.

Past Events:

- a. Needles District, UT – October 6-7. The trip was led by Frank G. Whiston with seven vehicles participating. Due to bad weather, the trip was cut short by a day. But the other days of wheeling were excellent.
- b. Cuba Ranger District Personnel Familiarization Meeting & Field Trip – September 27. Paul Thompson set up and led the trip. Cliff Meier and Frank G. Whiston accompanied Paul.
- c. Red River – September 28 & 29. This annual event was led by Tom Hurt with three vehicles attending.
- d. Gordy's Hill Staging/Camping Area Clean Up– September 29 & 30. Led by Lauri Rector with six vehicles. Lauri reported there was not a lot of trash, but they all had a good time exploring the area.

Upcoming Events:

- a. Balloon Fiesta 4X4 Run - October 12. To be led by Mary Turpin. This run is providing a 4X4 experience to several of the balloonists at the Fiesta like was done in the past. Contact Mary if you are interested.
- b. Cedro Peak - October 21. To be led by Jan Waugh.
- c. Chick Challenge Caja del Rio/La Bajada- October 27. To be led by Lauri Rector. Guys are welcome too!

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Mark reported on the Travel Management Rule (TMR) with the Santa Fe and Cibola Forests. He publicly thanked Bob Telepak and Paul Thompson for their higher involvement in the TMR process. Bob has volunteered to coordinate the efforts to map potential routes on the Mountainair District and has already started the mapping process. Paul has stepped up and served as the primary liaison with the Cuba District of the Santa Fe National Forest, meeting several times with District personnel and helping explore additional routes in the District.

Mark reported on the proposed schedule for the SFNF. The draft of the alternatives will be created the week of Oct 22nd and then the document will start an iterative process between the travel management planning team and the various review levels (District Offices, Supervisor's Office, Region 3 Office). This will take some time as each cycle takes at least 10 working days. The goal is to have the document out for formal comment shortly after the 1st of the year. While the drafting of the document is taking place, it is still not too late to provide your input to the planning team and the various review bodies. Mark said he didn't know the current status of some of routes we have been discussing as he has not seen the final submitted maps to the planning team from the Districts. He has submitted info on the Dechter Connector between Joaquin Canyon and Ridge Road, and is still seeking alternate routes around Crow Spring on the Hill & Dale route. He and Joanne have spent several days in the Jemez (on two wheels) mapping and exploring.

He also gave a report on the TMR progress with the Sandia Ranger District (Cibola National Forest). Mark and Joanne met with Nancy Brunswick (Travel Management Rule planner) on Friday, October 5th. Nancy showed them the draft maps that will accompany the Environmental Assessment (EA) alternatives. At least one of the alternatives includes some motorized use in the La Madera area, including Tejon and Gonzales Canyons. The Cibola will be sending out a notice to everyone on the mailing list soon to announce the plans for the EA. It will be out formally sometime after the first of the year, but an early copy will be available for review on the website soon. Nancy noted that only those comments that are received during the official EA comment period will give the authors 'standing' for any subsequent appeal.

No new news on Gordy's Hill. The final Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the BLM Socorro office is still expected out soon but he hasn't heard any firm dates.

Program Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy: Tickets were sold for the 50/50 raffle. Tee shirts, sweatshirts, stickers, and pins were for sale.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin reported that he had not received any pictures (he did receive some at the meeting) for the club history book for our 50th year anniversary. Members were reminded to send Justin any pictures that could be included. Old pictures from the club's early days are especially needed. Justin has started to scan the pictures he has, but could use help. If you can help, contact him.

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Nothing to report.

Old Business:

The award for NM4Wheeler of the year 2007, was presented to Mark Werkmeister for his outstanding efforts as our Director of Environmental Affairs.

The Christmas Party was discussed. Mark Werkmeister volunteered his house. The date selected was December 8th with the party starting at 5:00pm.

Frank G. Whiston reported that he was unable to attend the New Mexico Council of Car Clubs meeting last month, but will attend this month. Frank will present our proposal to the Council to advertise our anniversary at their annual car show.

We discussed how to reciprocate with Jeep's West to thank them for the trail ride they held this year. It was decided to invite them the New Year's Gordy's Hill event as a starter.

Mark Wolf discussed the initial planning for the Summer Quarterly. The location will be Salida, CO. The exact date is still being determined after the last responses to the e-mail sent out to club members. This e-mail suggested several dates. Volunteers are needed to head up and work on committees for the event. Mark Wolf will send an e-mail requesting volunteers. Mary Turpin has volunteered to head the registration committee.

Mark Wolf reported that the 50th Anniversary logo has been selected. An e-mail will be sent out letting club members know where they can buy anniversary items with the logo. There will be a committee meeting next week, Wednesday at 7:00pm, at Mark and Joan Wolf's house.

New Business: The following new members were voted in; Chris Sears, Russ Kaz, Robert & Hollie Hohlfelder, Jeff Atchison, and Stuart Tefft.

Volunteers were requested for providing refreshments for the remaining winter meetings.

- a. November – Thompson
- b. January – Meier
- c. February – Zahn
- d. March – Wolf
- e. April – Jurey

A suggestion was made that the club become involved in some type of charity work as it has done in the past. Several possible charities were discussed. It was decided to contact Carrie Tingley Children's Hospital to see what type of support we could provide at Christmas. Sue Brady volunteered to make the contact.

It was suggested that the Church be given a donation for the use of the meeting room. Sue Brady made a motion for a \$200 donation. The motion passed. Sue also volunteered to talk with the Church on reserving the room for next year's winter meetings.

Mark Wolf discussed this year's "Rockin' New Year's" at Gordy's Hill. He recommended going down on Friday December 28 or Saturday Dec 29 and returning on New Year's Day. He also suggested inviting other clubs to join us, such as Jeeps West and Las Cruces.

There is a new Jeep parts/accessories vendor in Albuquerque, "Jeepers Paradise", located at 3400 2nd St. Their cards and stickers were available. The owner of the store was at the meeting. He offered to allow

the club to display a banner and other club information, sell tee shirts at the store, and to place the club logo on the store's website. He also mentioned that Sidekick Off-Road is planning to make a video on 4 wheeling in the Albuquerque area. They will need about 15 volunteer vehicles and the trails will range from easy-to-hard. No specific date was available.

Sue Brady mentioned that she had a friend that was looking for a small SUV to pull behind a motor home, like a Tracker, Sidekick, etc. Please contact Sue if you know of one.

50/50 Raffle: The raffle was won by Ethyl May Peeples. She won \$27.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.



President's Report

By Lauri Rector

This will seem very short compared to some of my other reports. We should have lots of other articles for your reading pleasure this month. So, I'll keep this really short.

After going to the New Mexico Car Council meeting last night, I do really have a better appreciation for the strength of our club. We may have faults, but go to any other club meeting and I think you will have a whole new appreciation for this club, its rituals, and its....well, everything!!!

I have this feeling that 2008 will be an especially good year for the club and a lot of fun for its members. I also think 2007 will have a very good finish to it as well.

Hope to see you out on the trail. Be sure to always keep the shiny side up!!!

NM4W 50th Anniversary

By Frank G. Whiston



We are celebrating our 50th anniversary!

The club has an online store dedicated to the sale of numerous items featuring our 50th Anniversary logo (including hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts, baby clothes, mugs, clocks, coasters, pillows, mouse pads, & more).

Visit www.cafepress.com/nm4w
for a list of products and to place your order!

NM4W 4-Wheeler of the Year

By Mark & Joan Wolf



Mark Werkmeister was recently chosen by fellow club members as the 2007 NM4W 4-Wheeler of the Year! Mark also won the award in 1996. As the club's Director of Environmental Affairs, Mark has been instrumental in making sure that government officials know where the four-wheeling community stands on public lands access.

During the past year, Mark led the way in communicating the four-wheeling community's viewpoints to the USFS and BLM. It's a critical time to stand up and be recognized because the agencies are reconsidering many travel routes that for years have been enjoyed by NM4W. Mark initiated a Citizens Alternative to the Santa Fe National Forest. This 30+ page plan documented

NM4W's activity in the forest. With input from members and on behalf of NM4W, Mark compiled and submitted a professional, thorough alternative for USFS consideration.

Mark was instrumental in mapping the OHV routes at Gordy's Hill OHVRA. His countless hours of walking ~25 square miles of desert terrain with GPS in hand are testament to his dedication. Mark's efforts allowed the BLM Socorro Field Office to propose official status for Gordy's Hill OHVRA in Alternative B of their RMP revisions.

In addition to keeping the bureaucrats on their toes, Mark actually went four-wheeling. His club runs included organizing an Easter snow run in Farmington (with Harold Off) and leading Mt. Blanca in September. Mark is a fixture at the Chile Challenge where he's spotted many drivers through Patzcuaro's Revenge, Tabasco Twister, and almost every other hard or extreme trail.

As a long-time contributor to off-road magazines, Mark shares his four-wheeling enthusiasm with the larger audience. His articles have brought attention to various NM4W runs, vehicles, and members. Mark also served as President of the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association from 2000-2002 and was selected as United Four Wheel Drive Association's "4-Wheeler of the Year" in 2001.

Thanks to Mark's leadership and tireless efforts, government officials know there is a concerned, committed four-wheeling community that demands their attention.

As 2007 4-Wheeler of the Year, Mark joins this list of winners: Glenn Bontly (2006), Lauri and Jeff Rector (2005), Chuck Peeples (2004), Leon Duggar (2003), Glenn Bontly (2002), Pat Brady (2001), Mark Wolf (2000), Mark Wolf (1999), Bob Telepak (1998), Charlie Wilson (1997), Mark Werkmeister (1996).

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

Hmmmm....where to start this month.....

The big news is that the Sandia Ranger District (Cibola NF) sent this notice out yesterday (Oct 22):

Dear Interested Party:

We would like to update you on the revised Sandia Ranger District Travel Management Project schedule. The Cibola National Forest's Interdisciplinary Team is currently completing the Environmental Assessment (EA), a document that analyzes the environmental impacts of the alternatives developed for designating motorized routes and trails on the Sandia District. The EA will be released to the public sometime after January 2nd, 2008. Once the EA has been released, a public meeting will be scheduled to discuss the analysis (date, time, and location to be determined). The final decision is expected during March 2008, and the official Motorized Vehicle Use Map is scheduled to be available by late spring.

There will be two options for receiving the EA for review:

- 1) you can review the EA on the internet, or
- 2) you can request to have a paper copy or a CD sent in the mail.

We will post the EA--and all associated maps--on the internet when it is released. We will also send a letter to our current mailing list to announce the EA's availability and to relay information about the comment period. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy or a CD of the EA when it is released in January 2008, please contact us by letter or email by **November 9th, 2007** to assist us in determining how many documents to print. **Be sure to specify whether you want a paper copy or a CD.**

Letters should be sent to:

Cibola National Forest
Attn: Sandia Travel Management EA Request
2113 Osuna Rd NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Or, you may email requests to: cibolatravel@fs.fed.us.

We have posted the issues and alternatives that are being analyzed in the EA on our Travel Management web page at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/index.shtml>

The issues and alternatives are preliminary in nature and may change prior to release of the EA. While comments are accepted at any time, it would be most helpful to receive comments after the EA has been released in January. By regulations, any comments received prior to the beginning of the formal comment period in January will not have standing if someone chooses to appeal after a decision has been signed. If you have additional questions about this project, you may contact Nancy Brunswick, Travel Management Project Leader by email (cibolatravel@fs.fed.us) or by phone: (505) 346-3900.

Thank you for your interest this project.

Sincerely,

NANCY ROSE
Forest Supervisor

“Okay, but what does it mean”, you ask.

I am glad you asked that! First of all, I recommend that each of you download the material off the Cibola website, or order the CD or hard copy so you can review them at home. It is a relatively short document (12 pages and some maps). As I stated in the email notice that I sent out on Oct 23, it is very interesting that they sent these out to the public now, as the ‘official’ EA will not come out for public comment until after January 1, 2008. This means two things:

- 1) It give us an opportunity to still get the FS to change what they have included in the Alternatives, and
- 2) Any comments we submit prior to the official EA will ***not*** give us ‘standing’ to appeal the final decision. No matter, if you want standing to appeal, you just have to re-submit your comments during the official comment period later.

Here is what we have in a nutshell:

All of the Alternatives include a seasonal closure of the Cedro Peak area to all motorized recreation from Dec 1 to Apr 30 of each year.

- Alternative 1 – The preferred alternative (from the standpoint of the FS): **The La Madera completely closed to any motorized recreation.** Most of the existing Cedro Peak area routes remain open with various designations for full-size 4WD, ATV’s, and motorcycles on the individual trails.
- Alternative 2 – This is the ‘no action’ alternative. Since the Travel Management Rule has to be implemented, this one isn’t even open for consideration.
- Alternative 3 – This is the alternative that is titled: *Expanded Opportunities for Full Size 4x4’s and ATV’s.* It **includes a few existing roads in the La Madera area, plus allows motorized use in Tejon and Gonzales Canyons in La Madera.** These short canyons include some moderate-to-hard rock crawling opportunities. Alternative 3 is the **ONLY** alternative that includes ANY motorized use in the La Madera area.
- Alternative 4 – Is the same as Alternative 1, except it limits more of the trails to single-track (motorcycles) at the expense of ATV’s and full size 4WD’s.
- Alternative 5 – Cuts back on the number of trails available for all, especially in closer proximity to neighborhoods in the Cedro Peak area.
- Alternative 6 – Bans motorized use on all trails in the Sandia Peak Ranger District, except graded roads.

You will note that I have not commented on the merits or issues of each of these alternatives.....yet. I will, as soon as I get time to study them, but feel free to review them and TELL THE SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THEM!!!! Yes, you will have to re-submit your comments again after the 1st of the year if you want standing to appeal the final decision, but I encourage you to submit your (unofficial) comments now and try to get the alternatives changed if you don’t like them.

On the Santa Fe National Forest...You can read the latest information in the report I gave during the club meeting (see the Minutes above). The work of actually writing the proposed action and alternatives has finally started, but it is still not too late to weigh in about specific routes and our needs. I will be sending a formal copy of the final NM4W Citizen’s Alternative in within the next few days. I have included the additional routes we have identified by working with the FS this summer, and updated the

document to reflect the latest conditions. We are still formally asking for ALL of the routes we identified to be included as we only submitted the highest priority routes for consideration.

BLM news.....I talked to Mike Bilbo of the Socorro BLM Office briefly last Thursday. He indicated that the Final Resource Management Plan document is delayed again and is currently scheduled for release around April 2008. I will follow up on that one as we need more information.

And finally, it is definitely not too early to be thinking about the club partnering with one of the federal agency offices (BLM or FS) on a Recreational Trails Program grant. The state office has \$698,000 dollars available in '08 that HAS to be spent on motorized recreation projects. The grants are due April 1, but with the paperwork in the agency offices, we should be starting NOW. Ask me for more details if you are interested in helping.

That is enough, and probably too much, for now. The trails you save are our own!

Your DEA,
Mark

Gordy's Hill Staging Area Clean-Up

By Lauri Rector

When I decided to set up this event, I knew that I would be in conflict with Tom Hurt's long-standing annual run to Red River for the New Mexico Free Fishing Day (I may have that name wrong). If National Public Lands Day was on a different day, I would have set it for that day, but I did not have that luxury. I also realize that not everybody is a fisherman, and not everyone likes the cold the last weekend in September that Red River can be most years. OK, we are wimps that don't like to sit in a beautiful area with a pole in our hand.

So, I wanted to open this up to the club and hoped that a few people would turn out. I hope that our club (at least the non-fishermen) can make National Public Lands Day a day that we do some community service.

When we got there on Friday evening, I thought that we were going to be the only ones there. Then Jan Waugh showed up a few minutes later. The next morning, we found that Dan Pritchard and JD Patrick were camped further down from the staging area. Then Brad Opatz and his father-in-law showed up for a day of exciting fun. And then the Bradys, both Pat and Sue with Taylor in tow, showed up to help as well.

It wasn't nearly as bad as we were led to believe by Mike Bilbo last July. Unless someone else had a clean-up in the meantime, such as New Mexico Tech. Jeff worked on re-digging out the fire pit and positioning the rocks around it, all before anyone got there Saturday morning. It gave me something to look forward to – I was going to be able to sit by a camp fire that night (is it dark yet?). We all put on gloves, grabbed a trash bag, and started walking and picking up trash. Within minutes, I had a bag that had a gallon container of tar – so my arms were a foot longer within a few minutes. Dan and JD had a huge area where they camped all cleaned up by the time we worked our way down there. They found a live rattle snake – JD stretch his arms out as far as he could when he was asked how big it was, and then said the snake was about 2' long. Save the tales for the camp fire, please!!!

Pat Brady was nice enough to lead us on a trail ride that would be kind to Sue's daily driver and that ensured Jan would have no problem with her smaller tires on her Jeep. It was a fun little trail. When we

got to the Coyote Canyon area, Jeff and I lead the bigger tire people up the Great Escape for a few minutes of thrills – Lauri’s Rear-End just isn’t what it used to be, the obstacle that is!

Pat and Sue did not stay for the pot luck, something about Taylor and what may happen if she eats beans, sausage, and pot-luck fare for dinner. Brad and his father-in-law left early as well (before I had a chance to thank them for coming out and helping – I really appreciate it!!!). But Chris Pritchard came down for the pot luck, the camping, and trail ride the next day. JD Patrick stayed for the pot luck, but then drove home afterward. For such a small amount of participants, we had a very good pot-luck!!! We had a great fire and nice conversation afterward.

Jeff and I led the trail ride the next day and it turned out to be a really fun day. It was an exploratory (and no u-turns – well, if you stop and look and take pictures, it’s not a u-turn – did all y’all know that?) type of run and we came across a mine with a lot of neat rocks, a really beautiful canyon, and just a fun little ride through an arroyo. More details to come once we can compare my GPS to a map of the area.

We were all on the road back home by about 2 in the afternoon. It was a really good weekend!!!!

Raffle Tickets . . . Get Your Raffle Tickets!

By Leon Duggar

Howdy New Mexico Four Wheelers! It's time for me to get on my soapbox and scream to the heavens..... "Raffle tickets, come get your raffle tickets here"! With lots of prizes to win, you want to get your tickets early (just a hint...all the winning tickets are sold first!). Need a winch, but don't have the \$1000 to buy one? Simple! Buy \$20 or \$50 in tickets, and you will have better odds than the guy who just bought \$10! Yea, you can say that you might not win the winch . . . you might win the full set of tires from BF Goodrich or Goodyear! But only if you buy some tickets! Increase your odds . . . buy more than your buddies! Good luck, and South West Four Wheel Drive Association thanks you! Come see me at the meeting! Leon

Cedro Peak Trail

By Jan Waugh

“It’s a beautiful morning, but that wind is cold.” “What will it be like on the trail?” These were just a couple of the comments made at the Sandia Ranger Station on Sunday October 21. The sky was azure and the leaves were still green with small splashes of yellow, and the wind was blowing hard enough to make it uncomfortable if one stayed in it for a long period of time. But there were 14 4x4’s ready to tough it out.

We arrived at the air down point and were joined by three more 4x4’s making the total 17. That’s 68 wheels ready to traverse the rocky slopes of the Cedro Peak Trail. Yahoo!!! We started out on FR 462 and made our first stop at the infamous “Hill” area. Nope it’s not Hell’s Revenge, nor is it Tabasco Twister. It’s just the “Hill”. Oh but what a “hill” it is. Just ask the 4 jeepers who attempted it. Recon teams forged ahead and surveyed the area for the best line of attack. Fortunately, the winds had died down on the mountain and we began to shed some of the layers we were burdened with.



Justin Allen was the first to make his way down the steep slope

with large “punkin killer” rocks in the way. His black YJ made the trek down with ease. As he made his way up the rocky climb, it was obvious that Justin knew how to handle that beast of an incline and made it look easy as he got his rig over the 2 ½ to 3ft ledges and back on top.



You’ve heard the saying “when the going gets tough the tough get going”. Well the tough got up and went in this case. Zach Little with a 4 cylinder TJ and open differentials gave us a new outlook on tough with his attempt at the “Hill”. On the ride down he needed a little help getting all 4 wheels back on the ground. The “Little” gray TJ pawed its way back to the top, entertaining the crowd along the way . . . and with a little help from a new found friend Wesley Johnson, completed his mission with a burned out clutch.

Zach’s father made the “Hill”

look like a walk in the park with his locked Rubicon Unlimited. Another guest, Bruce Jaramillo in his white Cherokee, attempted the “Hill”, but due to mechanical difficulty decided that today was not his day to make history.



We stopped for lunch at the intersection of FR 462 and FR 13.

Our next stop was the Cedro Peak overlook where most of the gang braved the strong gusts of wind. Our day was pretty well complete with much of the group giving the “Stairs” a try.



Lunchtime



Keith & Linda Jury



Chris Sears



Dennis Wong



James & Ana Lombard



Jan Waugh



For Sale



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

1979 F250 4x4, with D60 Rear & D44 Front, perfect upgrade axels! Will run with some Carb work. Whole Truck \$1,500. Call Derren at 505-892-6310

TJ Rear Dana 44: 4.56 Gears, ARB Locker, Superior 30-spline alloy axles, Tubular Diff Guard, Spidertrax 1.25" wheel spacers, Nth degree pinon guard/slider, lower shock sliders, heavy duty trac bar mount with trac bar to diff support, new brakes shoes, new drums, complete setup, excellent condition. \$2500 OBO. Call Brad at 505-858-0832.

For more stuff for sale, please visit our web site at www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm

Club Notes

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

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

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

Submission Due Date: 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 **25th of the prior month**. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

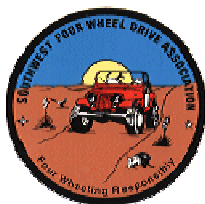
Schedule of Events

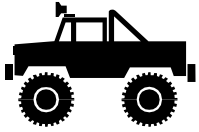
Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Nov 8	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-891-8517
Dec 8	Christmas Party	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Dec 29 – Jan 1	"NM4W Rockin' New Year", Gordy's Hill	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296

NM4W Officers

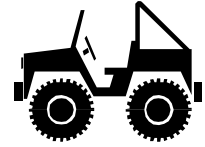
<p>President Lauri Rector 228-6547 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Cliff Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Paul Thompson 293-8390 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Jason Lavy 792-8035 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Jan Waugh 250-6962 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
31 La Mirada Rd
Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



December 1, 2007 Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From November 8, 2006
by Cliff Meier



Meeting was held at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Lauri Rector called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Guests: John Baker, Dennis Wong, Jonathon Mendez, and Tahoe Zahn.

Members Present: Jeff Atchison, Mark & Maria Berglund, Glenn Bontly & Jan Montano, Pat & Sue Brady, Leon Duggar, Erwin Greven, Tom Hurt, Keith & Linda Jurey, Russ Kaz, Ed Kausche, Jason & Sara Lavy, Jerry & Barbara Marx, Cliff Meier, Chuck & Ethel May Peeples, Dan & Chris Pritchard, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Jack & Stella Sierra, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Paul & Mary Thompson, Craig & Mary Turpin, Jan Waugh, Mark & Joanne Werkmeister, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, and Chris Sears.

Secretary's Report – Cliff Meier: A motion was made by Laurye Tanner and passed to dispense with the reading of the October meeting minutes. The minutes had been published in the November newsletter.

When you sign in at the meeting and have a family membership please mark through the name of the family member not in attendance. If you don't, the Secretary has no way of making an accurate count of who attended the meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Thompson: The current balance was \$4,158.53.

Vice President's Report – Frank G. Whiston: Online store is open for ordering the 50th Anniversary apparel. See the Club website for more information. The point sheet was available for members to review.

Frank and the Rectors attended the October New Mexico Council of Car Clubs meeting and submitted a membership application for an associate membership. The May 2008 car show was discussed and a planning committee is being formed. It was noted that they will need logistics help and people with CBs to aid in directions and parking. We could help with this. The NMCCC point of contact for the show is Joyce Clements (oldcarnut1932@earthlink.net). The show sells out each year, but half the spaces are set aside for clubs to reserve in advance. There will be limited space to park as a club, about 10 spaces. Our club needs a volunteer(s) to attend the NMCCC meetings the 4th Wednesday of the month. The next NMCCC meeting will be in January. The meetings start at 7:30pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month (except November and December) at the Old Car Garage, 3205 Claremont NE (one traffic light north of Manual NE and a block and a half west of Carlisle NE).

Fines – Lauri Rector for not having waypoints in her GPS, plus U-turns, etc. during the Chic Challenge. Lauri generously volunteered to donate a \$1.00 to the fine can.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Jan Waugh:
Last Month's Events:**

Red Rock Mine near Taos: Mark Wolf and Tom Hurt led several club members on this run in northern New Mexico.

Cedro Peak, October 21: Led by Jan Waugh with 17 vehicles.

Monzano Mountains Exploratory/Mapping: During October six trips were made by Cliff Meier and several club members to the Monzano Mountains to locate and GPS/map roads to be submitted to the Forest Service. Numerous easy to moderate-plus 4X4 roads were identified. These roads are similar difficulty to the roads in the Zunis.

Chic Challenge, October 20: Led by Lauri Rector with 4 vehicles.

Upcoming Events (See the webpage for additional details)

Christmas Tree Run, December 1: Tom Hurt will lead the run. We will meet at the Conoco Station at the intersection of Hwys 550 & 528 at 9 am. We will be stopping at the Walatowa Visitor's Center to purchase our tree permits (\$10 each) and then proceeding to the cutting area. Bring a saw to cut your tree, tie down materials, lunch, and warm clothes. There will likely be snow!

Christmas Party, December 8: There will be a gift exchange with a \$10 limit, mark if it's for a boy or girl. Motion was made Mark Wolf to spend \$100 to buy meat for the party. The motion was seconded and passed. It was decided to buy the meat from the Smoke House Bar-B-Que.

Rockin' New Years at Gordy's Hill, December 28 – January 1: The event will limited as an NM4W club event due permitting issues. We will meet at the staging area near the sand hill at 9:00 am each day and leave for the trails from there. Potluck on Monday evening (New Year's Eve).

2008 Summer Quarterly, Jul 31 - Aug 2: The NM4W will host the 2008 Summer Quarterly in Salida, Colorado. The host campground will be Chalk Creek Campground and RV Park. Camping spaces are limited and will fill up months in advance. Make your reservations as soon as possible. The phone number to the campgrounds is on their web site at <http://www.chalkcreek-campground.com/>. Make sure you tell them you are attending the Quarterly.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Nothing changed on Cibola. The Travel Management Rule will be official after the first of the year.

Santa Fe National Forest – Rob Potts, the National Forest Planner, was injured and the maps are not ready. Should be ready sometime this month. Paul Thompson volunteered to review the maps when ready, next week? Rob is being replaced as the planner. Club is concerned with the loss of Rob, and the transition to a new person.

Gordy's Hill – Resource Mgmt Plan will not be available until Apr 08.

Program Chairman's Report – Jason Lavy: 50/50 raffle will be held at end of the night. The normal 50/50 pot split will be augmented with some posters.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin reported that he received a bunch of pictures, but still looking for non-Jeep vehicles pictures. Someone suggested Leon's Porta-Bronco. Leon was not amused. Justin is starting to lay out the book, and is looking for pictures of JKs on the trail.

Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Trail Tales input due 25th, if you are going to be late, let Glenn know. Website – New prospective members please submit applications on-line, preferably before you are voted in as a new member.

SW Delegate: SWFWDA dues are currently \$50 per club, plus \$6 per member, due now. Membership to United 4 Wheel Drive is no longer included in the SW dues. You can join as individuals but mark as through SW.

Old Business: Sue Brady reserved the room at the church for next year's winter meetings. After the meeting, please help to clean up the room. We need to leave room as we found it, don't stack the plastic chairs more than 4 high.

Mark Wolf – SWFWDA Summer Quarterly. The Duggars found a place, Chalk Creek Campground. The club will have place a \$200 deposit. The \$200 deposit will reserve 15 RV electric, 5 RV electric/ water, and 5 tent camping sites. The campground has a website; individuals will make their own reservations. (See the Upcoming Events section for details). Mark Wolf made a motion for the \$200 deposit. The motion was seconded and passed.

50th Anniversary – Mark Wolf reported that the planning for the four events is being finalized, volunteers will be needed the events (summer picnic, car show and shine, and 2 other). Laurye Tanner is working on the calendars, so far there are 18 ordered. Need a motion for money for the calendars, also for the club to buy 4 or 5 to use as raffle prizes. Cost of the calendars will be \$17 each. A motion made buy Frank G. Whiston to have the club fund the number of calendars ordered by members plus 5. The motion was seconded and passed.

Joan Wolf wrote a 50th Anniversary article for 4-Wheel Drive and Sport Utility magazine, due out about Apr 08.

New Business: December 8 clean up in Rio Rancho. The Club has been invited by Ted Skibyak, a Rio Rancho Police Officer, to assist with a 4X4 clean up in the undeveloped portion of Rio Rancho and Sandoval County. The location is Kings Park in Rio Rancho. It is at the end of Kings Blvd in Northern Meadows, off of Unser Blvd, north of Northern. Registration starts at 8:00 am and trash pick up is from 9 to 2. A raffle will be held after the clean-up. Everyone gets 1 raffle ticket for each bag of trash. Prizes donated by local Rio Rancho businesses.

Chile-Challenge Raffle tickets now on sale. See Leon Duggar. Make sure you include your area code with the phone number. Pay when you turn in the ticket stubs to Leon. The tickets are \$1 each, in packs of 10. Checks should be written to the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association, not NM4W. This is the primary fund raising event for the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association.

Dennis Wong had enough points for membership and was voted in.

Road Runner Food Bank/USMC Toys For Tots – Food and toys will be collected at the Christmas party. Mary Turpin will deliver the toys.

Memorial Day Treasure Hunt – Tahoe Zahn brought up to see if there was any interest. In a number of years in the past a Memorial Day Treasure Hunt had been held and it was a 3 day event.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm. Tahoe Zahn won the 50/50 drawing.



President's Report
By Lauri Rector

It's been another month again. And again I just have to say "where does the time go?" By the time everyone gets this, they will be getting ready for the Christmas Tree Run, thinking about what they will bring to the pot-luck for the club December meeting and Christmas Party. Writing this right now, I'm rushing around trying to get ready to go out of town for Thanksgiving – which is tomorrow!!! We'll be having dinner with Mike & Kristy at the Spanish Trails in Moab. Then we will get 2 days of play time before heading back home. I'll be home for about 2 days, then I get to go to California for 5 days for 3 days of insurance classes. When you all are out enjoying yourselves and picking out a Christmas Tree, please think of your president. I will be in Burbank taking a 2 ½ hour essay test on Principles of Risk Management. Now do I know how to have fun in CA or what????

This is the time of year when everyone gets to be very generous. Please remember that we are having a food drive and a Toys for Tots collection at the Christmas Party. Please bring all the non-perishable food that you can. I hope that even with a 1 ton dually pickup that I still have to make several trips. Also bring a new, unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Heck, bring several of them – it's for the kids!!!

I hope that everyone enjoys their holidays and time with their family. Please stay safe out there!!!

Baby Shower for Beth Whiston & Sara Lavy
By Mary Turpin & Mary Thompson

NM4W Ladies

Baby Shower for Beth
Whiston & Sara Lavy

January 12, 2008
Mary Turpin, 303 Placitas Rd NW

Brunch 10:00 am

RSVP to Mary Turpin 254-8748
or Mary Thompson 293-8390



Cibola National Forest, Mountainair Ranger District Motorized Travel Plan Update

By Bob Telepak

With the really great help of Cliff Meier, aided by Paul Thompson and other club members, we are about 85% complete in GPS mapping the good full-sized 4WD trails in the Mountainair Ranger District. We still need motorcycle and ATV trail data. The district was supposed to have their "starting point" road map (the roads the Forest Service "thinks" are there) available by Nov 1st. Their present estimate is "sometime" after Jan 1st. So we are way ahead of them, considerably ahead of where we were in the recent Sandia Ranger District effort. They think they know where the roads are, we have actually driven them, and have the data. I hope to fill in more of the "holes" in our Mountainair data, especially in the Gallinas Peak area in early December, weather permitting.

Chic Challenge

By Lauri Rector

I don't know if it is a sign that the women of New Mexico 4-Wheelers have taken the attitude of been there, done that. But, I only had 4 Jeeps show up and one of them was my spouse (he won't ride with me). I don't think that we have ever had under 20 show up for this run.

We had wonderful weather for this event. Not too hot, not cold, and not too windy. Lots of beautiful sunshine!!! Mark Berglund showed up by himself and Jan Waugh came with her Jeep. Justin Simenson and Rebecca Tafoya came in Justin's Rubi, but Rebecca got to drive all day long.

We started out and I realized that I had no idea where the turn off for the trail was – I had no waypoints for the trail in my GPS. Last time I did the trail, I pre-ran it and had tracks in the GPS and still had to do several u-turns. I thought for sure it would be even worse. But Justin and I did really well. Some turns I caught before he could tell me one was coming up. I think that I will just leave the GPS at home for now on.

We did so well with a small group that we made it to the blow hole before lunch time. I picked up some trash up there because I have old knees and they didn't want to hike down and back up to the blow hole.

Lunch stop was at the bottom of the hill after the little ravine, where it wasn't near as windy.

We went on to La Bajada after finishing Caja del Rio. The overlook before you head down La Bajada hill was very pretty. The trees down in the valley had turned and there was a lot of color. I don't think any of us had seen this spot in the fall and it was much prettier than what you could have imagined.

For the 1st time ever, we got done by 2:30. Mark had to go ahead and head home, the rest of us took a trail that we thought might lead to the abandoned town of La Bajada. It didn't. So we all went ahead and headed home.

Canyonlands Trip

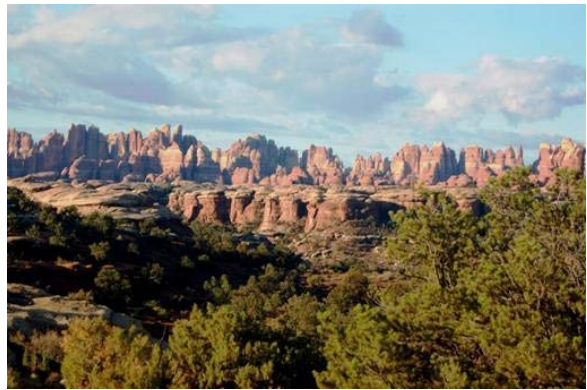
By Frank G. Whiston



On October 2nd, 2007 a group from the club caravanned with the destination of the Needles District of Canyonlands National Park. Cruising through Bernalillo, we saw Mark Berglund heading to the tire shop to have a broken valve stem replaced that was found during preparation for the trip. After a quick break in Cuba, NM, the Meier's began to have trouble with their pickup. They returned to Cuba and spent the day with the local mechanic. After replacing the fuel pump, it was discovered that the distributor had come loose from the engine block. At

about 5 PM they were on the road again to join the rest of the group. By the time we hit Farmington, Mark caught up with us. The whole group proceeded on in the park to the visitor center to secure the permits for Lavender Canyon the next day just before they closed. We all then went back outside the park boundary to the campsite along Lockhart Road that the Thompson's had secured earlier in the day.

In the morning, Russ Kaz and Gleena Giboney headed out before sunlight for the Salt Lake City area where Russ would purchase a 98 wrangler that he had found on Craig's list. Just in time for the trip, the Meier's arrived at the camp. They opted to spend the night in an RV park in Monticello UT rather than to try to find us in the dark. I handed out the permits and we all set out to drive Lavender Canyon. That day we had Robert and Holly Hohlfelder, Mark Berglund, the Meiers, Jeff Atchison, and the Thompsons in line. There was a storm that passed through the week prior which produced a lot of moisture and left things pretty soggy. We made the first tracks on the trail since the storm. This made navigation rather challenging since most of the trail is in the arroyo bottom. I maintained a pace that was faster than I would normally keep due to the fear of sinking in quicksand. Although encountering several soft spots, no one got stuck.



Thursday, we had planned to drive Salt Creek, which also requires a permit, but the road was closed due to a washout that occurred months ago. The park service gave no indication that they intended to address the issue other than to keep the gate locked. Plan B would take us over Elephant Hill and into the heart of the needles. From there we proceeded through the narrows and into the Devil's Kitchen for a 10/100. The group continued on into Devils Lane and to SOB hill. SOB hill did not live up to its name due to recent maintenance. The next stop would be at

the Bobby Jo camp to utilize the facilities, the last we would see that day. Shortly after that, we stopped for lunch near a primitive camp. After exiting the park's south boundary, the group made its way up Bobby's Hole, which proved to be somewhat of a challenge for Jeff's stock Ford Ranger

with street tires. From there, the group continued into Beef Basin and Ruin Park where we would visit a couple of archeological sites. It was getting later in the day, so we kept a quick pace and drove around the southern edge of the park boundary, climbing into the pines of the Manti-La Sal national forest. Views were spectacular looking down on the Needles with the La Sal Mountains towering in the background. We eventually looped back to camp via Cottonwood Canyon. What a l-o-n-g day!

Friday we decided to have a more laid back day. Russ and Gleena decided to spend the day in Moab, and Robert and Holly decided to do some hiking. Mark headed back home to join the family to celebrate Maria's Birthday. The rest of us traveled to the Colorado overlook returning to the visitor's center for lunch. After lunch we visited Pothole Point to view the creatures like tadpole



shrimp living in the puddles on the slick rock. We ended the day by visiting the Cave Spring Trail where ranchers set up a cowboy camp near the spring. That evening the wind picked up, so everyone stayed inside and went to bed early. The wind woke me at about midnight. It was really howling! So bad, I decided to go out and put my camp table and chairs inside the Jeep for fear that they would blow away. When I came back in, the gusts became stronger. I decided it was best to pull the slide in on the motorhome. Then I went to check on Jeff, Russ, and Gleena who were all camping in tents. They had emptied their vehicles into the tents for ballast, then they curled up inside for the remainder of the night. Those gusts were unbearable in a tent.



Saturday, at first light, it was gloomy and still windy. I checked the weather radio and snow accumulations were mentioned for Monticello. As the others ventured out we discussed what to do. I really wanted to go back over Elephant Hill to hike the Joint Trail, but all of this is in canyon bottoms. With precipitation in the forecast and seeing how much water had flown through those canyons a week ago, we decided to pack up and head back to Albuquerque. We had an un-eventful trip home and left something to return and do in the future. What a beautiful place and a great trip overall.



For Sale



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

1979 F250 4x4, with D60 Rear & D44 Front, perfect upgrade axels! Will run with some Carb work. Whole Truck \$1,500. Call Derren at 505-892-6310

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

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

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

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

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

For more stuff for sale, please visit our web site at www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm

Club Notes

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

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

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

Submission Due Date: 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 **25th of the prior month**. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Dec 1	Christmas Tree Run	Call Tom Hurt	505-994-2515
Dec 8	Christmas Party	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Dec 29 – Jan 1	"NM4W Rockin' New Year", Gordy's Hill	Call Mark Werkmeister	505-891-0296
Jan 10	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Lauri Rector	505-891-8517

NM4W Officers

<p>President Lauri Rector 228-6547 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Cliff Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Paul Thompson 293-8390 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Jason Lavy 792-8035 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Jan Waugh 250-6962 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Werkmeister 891-0296 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
31 La Mirada Rd
Belen, NM 87002

