



Trail Tales



January 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From December 20, 2009

by Jeanne Meier



The Christmas party/meeting was held at Glenn and Jan Bontly's home on December 20th. Frank G. Whiston called the meeting to order at 2:25 pm.

Guests: None

Members Present: Glenn and Jan Bontly, Pat and Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Mike and Kristy Coe, Leon and Marsha Duggar and girls, Ron and Becca Hyman, Russ Kaz and Glenna Giboney, Keith and Linda Jurey, Tony Louderbough, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Dixon and Zelda Patrick, Chuck and Ethel May Peoples, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Chris Sears, Paul and Mary Thompson, Frank & Beth Whiston and girls, and Mark and Joan Wolf.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: The November 2009 meeting minutes were approved as published in the December 2009 newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: Mike Coe reported a balance of \$3,551.41.

VP Report – Cliff Meier: Cliff did not have any fines, and there were no guests so he did not review the points system.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Mark was not present. Frank did mention that the attempt to close part of Chokecherry Canyon in the Farmington area is ongoing.

Trip Chairman's Report – Mark Wolf:

Past Events:

- Nov 21st Roadrunner Food Bank Drive – There were 11 vehicles that participated in the drive. Frank Whiston was interviewed for Channel 4 News as the members arrived in their vehicles. Tony Louderbough got a lot of attention from the media with the food on his roof rack.
- Nov 27th Gordy's Hill – Frank Whiston reported there were 4 vehicles from New Mexico 4-Wheelers and 7 vehicles from Alamogordo and Ruidoso. The Alamogordo group had some breakdowns that ended the run early.
- Dec 5th Christmas Tree Run #1 – There were 8 vehicles that participated in this run. The permits were for Area B Forest RD 10, which was not a good Christmas tree area. Not everybody got a tree.
- Dec 13th Christmas Tree Run #2 – This run to the Pecos was cut short by bad road conditions. They only got a little way up the road and began sliding. A vehicle

coming down with chains indicated it got worse, so everybody backed down. It was still a good outing.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

Dec 31st-Jan 3rd Rockin' New Years @ Gordy's Hill – Lauri Rector indicated they would not be down until Friday, but people can still come in on Thursday if they wanted. There will be runs on Friday and Saturday, and if people want, they can run Sunday. Trails will be determined based on the number and type of vehicles that show up.

Feb 24th – 27th Chile Challenge in Las Cruces.

July 21st-24th SWFWDA Summer Quarterly - Creede, CO – There is a separate page on the club web site with information. The registration and a flyer are online and there are links to sites with accommodation information. Everyone is being encouraged to book early.

Mark Wolf said he was planning a 'snow' run when we get snow, so watch the web site and e-mail. It will be an easy run since the snow can create the challenge.

Program Chairman's Report – Paul Caskey: Paul had merchandise in his car if anyone wanted to purchase anything. There was no raffle.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin was not present, but had sent a report to Frank. He is trying to setup a free photography class before the meetings and will send out an e-mail when he has made the necessary arrangements with the church.

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

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

“Thank You” to our Webmaster & Newsletter Editor – Frank Whiston recognized Glenn Bontly for the work he does maintaining the web site and publishing the newsletter. Mark Wolf presented him with a plaque and gift card.

Frank thanked Glenn and Jan Bontly for hosting the Christmas party. Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm, and we proceeded to the gift exchange.

Future Hosts are:

January	Keith and Linda Jurey
February	Ron and Becca Hyman
March	Mark and Joan Wolf
April	

Editor's Note: Laurye Tanner was not at the meeting, but sent in the following information via e-mail afterwards: Laurye is planning to bring the Creede, Colorado slideshow to the January club meeting. It will also be shown at the Chili Challenge. We hope this slideshow will get many people to sign up to come to the Summer Quarterly in July, the “Rendezvous on the Rio Grande”.



President's Report

By Frank G. Whiston

Have you thought about your New Year's resolutions? I have some suggestions. Participate in more club functions. Volunteer to lead a trail. If we could get every member family to lead just one trip this year, we could have a club run every weekend for the entire year! That is a LOT of potential right there! 2010 is the year to tap into it. The more club members that we have involved and active, the better it is for everyone. Remember, this is as much your club as it is mine. Get involved and let's make 2010 NM4W's best year yet! Happy New Year everyone!

Webmaster of the Century

By Joan Wolf



Yes, one of our own was named Webmaster of the Century! At the annual club Christmas party/meeting, Glenn Bontly was proclaimed by fellow club members as Webmaster and Trail Tales Editor extraordinaire. The impetus for the award was the great job that Glenn did on the putting together a webpage for the SWFWDA Quarterly, July 21-24, 2010 in Creede, CO. NM4W will host the event, and Glenn put together an appealing page (<http://www.nm4w.org/summerquarterly2010.htm>) that captures the fun and adventure offered by four-wheeling in the Colorado high country. Glenn captures it all: event flyer, registration form, lodging, etc. And the links work!!! Glenn makes us look good to the outside world.

Glenn rebuilt the club's web site not long after becoming a member back in 1999, and has served as our webmaster ever since. In addition to maintaining the web site, including the challenge of changing web hosts a few years back, Glenn has served as Trail Tales editor for the past 7 years. At the December 20 meeting, Glenn reminisced, "I became Editor when Pat Brady assumed a mid-term presidency of the club back in late 2002, and he asked me to take over the newsletter. He hasn't told me I could stop yet!" We all hope Brady never does.

Glenn does an awesome job of keeping the club's website fresh and accurate, as well as producing a high-quality newsletter. He was awarded a dash plaque (not a cumbersome wall plaque, in respect of Jan and his downsizing mode), a \$60 gift certificate to Teofilo's (a fine New Mexican Restaurant in Los Lunas), and a thank-you card.

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Editor's Note: Thank you all SO much for recognizing my efforts with the web site and newsletter. I truly enjoy supporting the club in this capacity. I've served as Newsletter Editor for other clubs I've been associated with in the past, and always "fought" to get people to provide input for "their" newsletter. Certainly NOT the case with the NM4W! Some issues are lighter in content than other, but I am fortunate to always receive, month after month, articles of interest to our members. I am especially grateful to the trail leaders who provide trip reports and great pictures, to the officers for their timely monthly reports, and last but certainly not least, to Joan Wolf for her outstanding "Member Spotlight" articles! Thank you again, and I look forward to another year of keeping everyone informed, and sometimes entertained, through the Trail Tales and the club web site.

Planning on attending the Chile Challenge this year? Please submit your registration immediately. Rumor has it that registrations are running only about 30% of what they should be by this time. Unless registrations increase dramatically, there will not be enough money to cover the event cost and **it will be cancelled**. The go/no-go decision will be made mid-January, so **act NOW if you want to attend!** Go to www.chilechallenge.org.



OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM CHILE CHALLENGE

February
24-27, 2010

Limited to 350 Vehicles — FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED
PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER VEHICLE.

RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO: LCFWDC, P.O. BOX 1344, LAS CRUCES, NM 88004

PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name: _____
 Last Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Phone Number: (____) _____
 Fax Number: (____) _____
 Email address: _____
 SWFWDA Member? Yes No
 Club Affiliation: _____

VEHICLE INFORMATION

Year: Make: _____
 Model: _____
 License Plate Number: _____
 Insurance Carrier: _____ (Required)
 Insurance #: _____ (Required)
 My Vehicle Is Equipped With:
 Tow Hooks: Front _____ Rear _____
 Solid Lockers: Front _____ Rear _____
 Tire Size: _____
 Working Winch: Yes No:

**NO TRAILS WILL BE RESERVED UNLESS
VEHICLE INFORMATION IS COMPLETE.**

FEE INFORMATION

Entries postmarked on or before 1/28/10
 _____ vehicles X \$125.00/each \$ _____
 Entries postmarked after 1/28/10
 _____ vehicles X \$150.00/each \$ _____
 _____ additional ticket(s) for Fri. meal X \$ 15 .. \$ _____
 _____ additional ticket(s) for Sat. meal X \$15 .. \$ _____
 _____ Days dry camping @ \$12/day \$ _____
 _____ Days camping with hookups @ \$17/day \$ _____
 Additional Land Action Donation of \$ _____
TOTAL PAID: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: LCFWDC

Fee includes: 2 tickets for Friday Meal
 2 tickets for Saturday Meal

**IF YOU WANT TO REGISTER AS A GROUP, ALL
ENTRANTS MUST REGISTER IN ONE PACKAGE.
HOWEVER, NO GUARANTIES WILL BE MADE.
SO, GET YOUR REGISTRATION ASAP**

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Date Received: _____ / _____ / _____
 Entry #: _____ Payment Due: \$ _____

**WARNING: Our trails are difficult,
ratings are probably understated.**

Please choose at least two trails per day.

- 1 = First choice
- 2 = Second choice
- 3 = Third choice

No line means trail is not running that day.

What is the first day you plan on running trails? _____

EXTREME	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Habanero Falls	_____	_____	_____	_____
Patzcuaro's Revenge	_____	_____	_____	_____
Rocotillo Rapids	_____	_____	_____	_____
Tabasco Twister	_____	_____	_____	_____

HARD	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Broad Canyon	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cayenne Crawler	_____	_____	_____	_____
Doña Ana Mountain	_____	_____	_____	_____
Off Broadway	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sandia Gulch	_____	_____	_____	_____

MODERATE	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Amatista Ledges	_____	_____	_____	_____
Doña Ana Mountain	_____	_____	_____	_____
Hopping Jalapeno	_____	_____	_____	_____
Upper Broad	_____	_____	_____	_____

EASY	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Box Canyon	_____	_____	_____	_____
Doña Ana Mountain	_____	_____	_____	_____
High Desert Tour	_____	_____	_____	_____
Spectator Run	_____	_____	_____	_____
Powder Puff Run	_____	_____	_____	_____

CAMPING

LCFWDC will have to pay the fees if you do not. Please pay your camping fees.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

CANCELLATION POLICY

All cancellations must be received in writing before 5 pm, February 8, 2010 to receive a refund of 80%.

After February 8th, no refunds will be issued.

CONFIRMATION CARDS/REGISTRATION PACKETS

Confirmation emails will be sent to all participants whose registration is received by February 4, 2010.

All other participants may register or confirm at the fairgrounds during posted times.

You will pick up your packet at the fairgrounds registration desk. It will contain your assigned trails, CB channels, staging rows, meal tickets, etc.



For Sale



Tires and Rims: Four (4) 35-12.50 x15 Pro-Comp Mud Terrain tires (2 with 80% and 2 with 70% tread left), extra spares available at no charge, \$240. Four (4) new chrome bead lock steel wheels from Allied, 15x8 with 5 on 5.5 bolt pattern, \$300. Call Guy Conway at 505-362-1132.

Dana 44 Powertrax No-Slip locker with a carrier. Made for 3.92:1 gears and lower, \$250. Call Mark Wolf at 505-856-8539.

Jeep Soft Doors (Lowers only): For 97 - 06 TJ, black, \$50. Call Glenn Bontly at 505-249-1127.

Jeep Rear Seat: From a '97 TJ (should fit 97 - 06 models), gray, \$125. Call Glenn Bontly at 505-249-1127.

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: Input for the Trail Tales is *normally* due to the Editor not later than the **25th of each month**, with publication around the 1st of each month. When circumstances dictate that the club meeting be later in the month, the Editor will extend the submission due date via e-mail notification. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

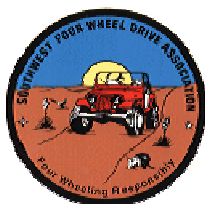
Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Dec 31–Jan 3	Rockin’ New Years at Gordy’s Hill	Lauri Rector	505-891-8517
Jan 14	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
Feb 11	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
Feb 24 - 27	2010 Chile Challenge	http://www.chilechallenge.org/	N/A
Mar 11	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
Apr 8	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541

NM4W Officers

President Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 President@nm4w.org	Vice-President Cliff Meier 281-3704 Vice-president@nm4w.org	Secretary Jeanne Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org
Treasurer Mike Coe 896-9581 Treasurer@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Paul Caskey 463-4939 Program-chairman@nm4w.org	Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Mark Wolf 856-8539 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
 Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



February 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From January 14, 2010
by Cliff Meier



The meeting was held at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church on January 14, 2010. Frank G. Whiston called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Guests: Tracy and Cheryl Bakewell, David Gill, Andy Schulze, and Lynn Yaple.

Members Present: Jeff Boggs, Glenn and Jan Bontly, Pat and Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Rance and Elizabeth Cochrane, Mike Coe, Guy Conway, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Ron and Rebecca Hyman, Keith and Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Russ Kaz, Tony Louderbough, Cliff Meier, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Tedd Romero, Chris Sears, Justin Simenson, Carlos and Laurye Tanner, Mary Turpin, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. and Beth Whiston, Mark Wolf, and Tahoe Zahn.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: The secretary was absent entertaining family from out of town. She appointed her husband as her replacement for the night. The December meeting minutes were approved as published in the January newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: Mike reported a balance of \$3,762.98. The first Summer Quarterly registration has been received. The club received a Thank You letter from the Road Runner Food Bank for our donation last month.

VP Report – Cliff Meier: With the help of two unnamed deputies (unnamed for their own protection) the following fines were levied.

- Mike Coe was fined \$1.00 for getting his motor home stuck (TWICE) while trying to make like a 4X4 climbing ledges at the Rockin' New Years event. It was reported the ledges were about 6 inches high!
- Jeff Rector was fined a quarter for wandering around while trying to find the trail he was leading, also at the Rockin' New Years run. Jeff strongly denied he was wandering, which almost resulted in another fine for not accepting his fine gracefully. This would have been a "whine" fine. Lauri had to pay Jeff's fine for him!

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: The BLM has launched its effort to develop a comprehensive management plan for the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument in the Robledo Mountains northwest of Las Cruces. The trackways sit on top of the Chile Canyons, which are a major portion of the Chile Challenge trails. The scoping period has started, and ends after the public meeting which has yet to be scheduled, but is expected the end of February or sometime in March. We all need to become involved through the comment process because of the expected lack of off road vehicle trails. For more information on how you can help, contact Mark.

Pre-NEPA process comments are needed for the Magdalena District of the Cibola National Forest. We don't run many of the trails in this and therefore we are not familiar with them. Mark is looking to set up a run in that area.

NMOHVA is preparing for the NM 2010 Legislative Session. NMOHVA is trying to have two pieces of legislation introduced, the first is to have additional safety requirements added to a previously-passed OHV bill. The second is to have an economic impact study be conducted of OHV tourism.

The BLM is going to revise the Glade Area/Choke Cherry Canyon Recreation Management Plan. This has not been officially announced yet, but when it is, we need to get involved. This area is at Farmington, NM and is a nationally-known off road area.

The NEPA training is scheduled for January 30.

Trip Chairman's Report – Mark Wolf:

Past Events:

Dec 31st-Jan 3rd Rockin' New Years @ Gordy's Hill--Four club vehicles participated. It was a good event as it is every year, even with some wandering by one of the trail leaders and the failure of a rock climbing motor home (see VP fine section above).

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

Feb 24th – 27th Chile Challenge in Las Cruces.

July 21st-24th SWFWDA Summer Quarterly - Creede, CO – There is a page on the club web site for the quarterly information. This includes a flyer, the registration and t-shirt order forms, trail descriptions, and links to sites with accommodation information. Everyone is being encouraged to book early. Cliff Meier needs trail leaders. Contact him if you are interested.

Mark Wolf said he was planning a 'snow' run when we get snow, so watch the web site. It will be an easy run since the snow can create the challenge. Cliff Meier also plans to lead a Cedro Peak run sometime in February.

Mark also pointed to the membership that more folks need to volunteer to lead trails in the local area. The local area is defined pretty much wherever someone wants to lead a trail! Folks join the club to run trails, not attend meetings.

Program Chairman's Report – Paul Caskey: Paul had merchandise if anyone wanted to purchase anything. He also sold raffle tickets for the 50/50 raffle after the meeting. He added to the 50/50 raffle prize with some tee shirts left over from last year.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin asked for pictures from our runs/events. He has started a free photography classes before the meetings. The first was tonight and got rave reviews. Justin was given a round of applause.

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Glenn asked the guests that are interested in joining the club to fill out an online application that can be found on the club website.

Old Business:

A refreshment host for the April is needed. Mark Werkmeister volunteered.

New Business:

David Gill was voted in as a member with the usual cheer of (pay your dues!)

Frank Whiston thanked the Jureys for supplying the refreshments for tonight’s meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at about 8:00pm (the stand-in secretary was too busy worrying about getting his share of the excellent cookies Linda Jurey brought to notice the actual time the meeting adjourned!)

The \$43 50/50 raffle prize was won by Tahoe Zahn.

Future Hosts are:

February	Ron and Becca Hyman
March	Mark and Joan Wolf
April	Mark and Joan Werkmeister

 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; margin-left: 20px;"> <p>President’s Report By Frank G. Whiston</p> </div>

This past weekend I looked to the Sandias and saw them whiter than I have in a long time. Then to the North, Redondo peak is white, the West is Mt. Taylor...very white with snow too. It is good to see that the club made it out to play in the snow. It looks like there is another storm on the way, so the white stuff ought to stick around for a while, at least in the mountains. Did you miss out on the last snow run? Let the members know. Chances are, someone else did too and just needs an excuse to get out to play. Don’t like the snow? Well the Chile Challenge is just a few weeks away. While we have been getting snow, the Las Cruces area has seen some heavy rain. When it rains like that, the trails down there can be an all new experience! Get out and enjoy the diversity that New Mexico has to offer.

<p>From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs By Mark Werkmeister</p>

Hello all,

There is lots of information to pass on this month. Things are really getting busy! It seems like agency deadlines come in bunches. Accidental? Maybe, but please don’t let the flurry of activity cause you to miss these important deadlines. Please help by doing your part to attend meetings, send comments, and help keep our roads and trails open.

Prehistoric Trackways National Monument - Scoping Comments are due Feb 10th! Remember that Scoping comments start the official NEPA process, so the comments you submit become a permanent part of the planning project record. Please let the Las Cruces BLM know that you want the Chile Challenge and casual recreational 4WD to be able to continue to use the Chile Canyon trail systems that

are contained within the monument. The existing trails will not damage the fossilized tracks as they are buried under LOTS of dirt and rock.

Cibola National Forest – Mountainair District – We expect the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to be issued on or about Feb 5th. Once it is issued, we will have 30 days to provide substantive comments on the EA. If you want the Forest Service to send you a CD or hard copy of the draft EA when it comes out, you can contact the District at cibolatravel@fs.fed.us and ask for one. The draft EA and the maps will also be available on the website when they are issued.

Cibola National Forest – Magdalena District – The District has kicked off their preparation for their Proposed Action by holding a series of public meetings this next week. The closest meeting to us is in Socorro on Saturday (info at http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/tm_magdalena/index.shtml). Remember, this is Pre-NEPA as they haven't released the Proposed Action or asked for Scoping comments yet, but this is a good opportunity to have some early influence as to what they include in their Proposed Action.

Santa Fe National Forest – We still expect the Santa Fe National Forest to release their draft EIS in the near future. There will be at least a 45 day period for the public to make substantive comments on the draft EIS.

Farmington BLM - The Glade (aka Chokecherry Canyon) – The ‘unofficial’ comment period has ended and the BLM is getting ready to host a meeting(s) to present what they heard from the public. It would seem that they are still determined to re-do the management plan for the area regardless of the feedback. I was scheduled to meet with the Cliffhangers up in Farmington Jan 23rd for a strategy meeting, but weather forced a postponement. The trip will probably be rescheduled for early February. It is NOT TOO LATE to send comments to the BLM telling them that they should implement the current management plan and monitor for results before they consider revising the plan again.

The NM Legislative session for 2010 is in full swing up in Santa Fe. This 30-day session is focused on financial and budget matters, but NMOHVA is closely monitoring it for anything that affects motorized recreation. So far, there has been one Memorial introduced (SJM 31) that affects ATV and motorcycle safety training. NMOHVA will send out its Legislative Updates any time anything of interest happens. You can sign up for the free updates (if don't already receive them) by signing up for them at www.nmohva.org. Just hit the big red button!

That is all, but plenty to keep everyone busy. I know you would all rather just go drive your 4WD, but it takes more than vehicle maintenance to keep us out on the roads and trails of New Mexico.

Your DEA,
Mark

Rockin' New Years at Gordy's Hill

By Glenn Bontly

Jan & I had a New Year's Eve party in town on Thursday night, so we didn't go down to Gordy's until midday on Friday. Shortly after we arrived, the Friday trail riders returned after some exploration of the northern half of the area. Mike & Kristy Coe, Leon Duggar, and guests Jack & Cathy Dickey were in attendance. Later that afternoon, Jeff & Lauri Rector and Mark Berglund joined us. We had a great potluck that evening with lots of hot dishes, including Green Chile Stew, Lasagne, and some Chipotle Potato soup, to name a few. Thanks to everyone who brought wood,

we had a nice fire to keep us warm. Temp overnight dipped into the mid 20s, which wasn't too bad, considering the lows during the few weeks prior had been in the mid to upper teens.



Saturday morning, Leon headed back home (said he had to vacuum his house). We were joined by Dan Pritchard, and guest Greg (“Not-A-Yota”) from Alamogordo. Jeff led the group to the Coyote Hills trail. Despite being rated as “extreme”, we all gave it our best. I even got to use my new synthetic winch rope for the first time . . . twice! In fact, there was quite a bit of winching on this trail. Next, we headed over to Edge Canyon. Jeff and Greg were the only two brave enough to attempt this trail. The rest of us cheered them on. Most of us had lunch while we watched their slow ascent up the very treacherous terrain.

Next we started to head for slightly easier stuff, so the rest of us could participate. Unfortunately, Jan & I ended up heading back to camp to do some minor repairs, so I don't know which trails were done that afternoon. The repairs were not a result of breakage on the trail, rather incorrect installation of a component at a “local shop” a few weeks prior. We were both pretty disappointed that it ruined our afternoon! But at least we fixed the problem.



The rest of the group returned just as we were finishing our repairs. For dinner, we all decided to go to the Socorro Springs Brewery and Restaurant. Good food and good suds; we'll definitely have to go back sometime. Upon our return to camp, we lit the evening's campfire and enjoyed conversation.



Mark left early Sunday morning, leaving Mike, Jeff, me, and our respective partners. As we all finished packing everything up for the trip back home, we watched in horror as Mike tried to maneuver 50+ feet of motor home and trailer from pointing east to pointing west. Things were going pretty well, until the rear tires of the MH hit a patch of really soft sand, and promptly sunk. Mike emerged from his cockpit and said, “(#_)@#\$*% . . . motor home . . .%^&*)!@# . . . sand . . .!@#\$\$%^&*(!

With all of us working together, it only took about 45 minutes to free the behemoth from the quicksand. Way less time than it took just Mike & Kristy to dig themselves out when they got stuck upon arriving on Thursday. Oh, did I forget to mention that this was the SECOND time Mike buried

the MH during this trip? Anyway, Mike was very appreciative of our assistance, and even bought us all breakfast at Frances' in Belen on the way home.

How To Be A Good Trip Leader

By Mark Wolf

We are always in the need for Trip Leaders. One of the best ways to become a good Trip Leader is get out there and get involved! The more you practice this aspect of camaraderie, the more seasoned and comfortable you will become. While there are born "Leaders", I can't think of anyone who was born to lead trails. I love doing it due to the advantages you are able to take, one of which I will tell you towards the end!

One of the best things you can do is get yourself familiar with the trail. There are databases available that can give you GPS coordinates of every trail the Club has run over the past several years. If you are not good at GPS coordinate use like I am NOT, then get the starting point from someone and you can figure out the rest. Someone in the Club will always be willing to tell you where these trails start. Going there after a snow storm is probably not the time to visit a new trail! Traveling these in dry weather (which New Mexico is famous for) is the best way for you to get to know the trail. Knowing its hard places, fun places, "leany" places, and "most likely a wrong turn place" is something you need to know for every trail you intend to lead. However, there are exceptions.

There is nothing wrong with leading an "exploratory" trail. This is a trail you have never been on. Just remember to have the courtesy to tell your participants that you have never been on this trail before and this run will be considered an "exploratory" trail run. I have run these several times and it is always fun. Usually people have the patience to participate, because it is always better to go 4 wheeling and get lost than, as one Club Member always says "I could have been home mowing the yard"! Yuck!

There are all types of trail runs and there are ALWAYS all types of trail "Runners". Not everyone enjoys a really hard trail. In fact, my experience tells me there are more participants on easy to moderate runs than on hard to extreme runs. People are more comfortable with the easier to moderate runs as they have a lot of money invested and are not willing to risk damaging their "daily driver". I'm sure you can appreciate that. I have been on all types of trails and prefer to drive the moderate ones with the "daily driver" because of the amenities it provides.

Don't forget that you owe it to yourself and the other participants on the trail to have your vehicle in top maintenance condition. Breaking down is never fun for anyone at any time. Major breakage is something else. Always be prepared to make necessary repairs to get you and the others off the trail and back to civilization. This goes for someone else breaking down on your trail. You are responsible for them as well as yourself, and it is your duty to get them off the trail.

As a participant, you have some responsibility also. Always pay attention to the Trip Leader's directions. Nothing is worse than a "renegade" thinking they can do what they want regardless of whether the Trip Leader agrees or not. It is simple, common courtesy to follow the Trip Leader's direction. Keeping up with the Leader is also important. The Trip leader is aware of the time frame to get through the trail and knows about when he/she would like to be off the trail. Stragglers cause concern for the Leader, and if they are near the front of the line, it causes everyone else stress as they feel like you are holding them up. No one will get lost on a trail if everyone follows some simple

rules . . . keep the person behind you in sight ALL the time! This is how NO ONE misses a turn! If the person in front of you is doing their part, you won't miss a turn either.

Stay on the trail! Do not use a "go around" just because it looks easier than the other route EVERYONE else has used! This is why we 4 Wheelers get into trouble in the eyes of the "GAGs" (Green Advocacy Groups—THE ENEMY!). They call these "secondary" routes and they are only a proliferation of a trail or road. If there is mud in the path and everyone else has used that path, then you are obligated to go through the mud. Getting your vehicle muddy is part of the fun! I take it all in stride. (Remember! You could have stayed home and mowed the lawn!)

Pre-running a trail will tell you how to judge the trail for a level of driver. You can tell what is "easy" vs. "moderate" vs. "hard". Letting everyone know of obstacles or "watch its" are a good way to let people know a particular spot may be hard for them. NO ONE wants to roll or tip their vehicle! This is a dangerous sport and anything can happen. Remember too that not everyone has a lot of experience. Make sure you are fully capable of vehicle extraction and get information from other participants that may be more experienced if need be. Assume nothing and expect the unexpected!

My story is a lot longer than I thought, but I have only touched on a few things to make a good Trip Leader. Experience is the best teacher! The thing I like best about being a Trip Leader, especially in the summer, is that the Trip Leader **does not eat dust!** There! The secret is out!

+++++

Great info, Wolfie! I have a few things to add:

1. I've compiled information on numerous trails that we regularly run. Everything you need to lead these trails can be found on my personal web site at <http://www.webejeepin.com/Trails/Trails.htm>, including directions to the trail head, GPS coordinates, information about the trail, and printable maps.

2. Another option if you are unfamiliar with a particular trail, is to ask someone to "co-lead" it with you. I did this with Jeff Boggs for the Caballo Trip this past Fall. I led the trail and Jeff wrote the trip report.

3. Mark mentions that "you are responsible for everyone in the group". Don't let this scare you! Everyone pitches in to help, whatever the situation. You won't even have to ask anyone. People just want to help!

4. For the novices . . . make sure your vehicle is properly equipped. I'm not talking about winches and on-board welders. I'm talking about the basics. I have list of "Top Ten Mods" to do to your vehicle on my web site at http://www.webejeepin.com/Glenns_Jeep/top10.htm. On the Snow Run to Abo, we had several vehicles without CB radios. Communication is very important on the trail! I have a very inexpensive Uniden CB in my Jeep; you can get one at Wal-Mart for less than \$50, way cheaper than most other mods you will ever do to your vehicle.

5. Also for the novices. Another page on my web site is entitled "For Beginners". I think it contains some pretty good information. Check it out at http://www.webejeepin.com/For_Beginners/Beginners-1.htm.

6. Regarding Wolfie's comment, "Keep the person behind you in sight ALL the time!" This requires a big "foot stomp". There were times on the Abo run that we got way spread out. No one got lost, cuz the trail didn't have any turns. But with the lack of communication, we were often unaware that someone was stuck at some point. On a trail that has several turns, this is vital to keeping the group together.

Ed.

Rumbling of Thunder

A Whole New Sound in the Off-Road World

By Del & Stacie Albright, BlueRibbon Coalition

The over-paid, seldom-right weather man spoke with such animation and excitement that you couldn't help but get taken in by his rambling analysis of the on-coming weather pattern (from outer space). But he had me from hello when he mentioned the "rumbling of thunder" and how we would be hearing it for some time to come. I realized at that moment he had just described the new sound I've been hearing in the off-road skies – *thunder!*

Thunder is the sound made by lightning, ranging from a sharp loud crack, to a long, low rumble. I don't think there is any one reason for this "storm," but rather a culmination of people getting fed up with unnecessary closures and restrictions. Can you see the lightning and hear the thunder?

Lightning causes changes in pressure and temperature of the air which results in a sonic shock wave we like to call the clap or peal of thunder. I now can say I hear the rumbling of thunder in our off-road, OHV politics, and it's coming from us! Lightning is striking and about to strike more!



"Rumbling" is an interesting word, oft times used to describe the noise your stomach makes when you're hungry or after a good Mexican food dinner. But for me, this weather man unraveled a riddle that's been bugging me. When he said the rumbling of thunder, he described the new surge in land use and access involvement by recreationists across the country – and we're bringing the lightning with us!

Our "noise" level, while diminishing in our machines, is logarithmically increasing in our voices and outcries.

We've had enough of special-interest, anti-access folks trying to shut us out of our lands and waterways. We're "mad as hell" at unnecessary closures and restrictions to our sports. We're done sitting by and letting someone else preserve our recreation. More of us are in the game than ever before. The rumble grows by the day.

This new rumbling of thunder includes folks flying the American flag more; it includes recreationists with tea bags; it includes parents teaching kids the "right" way to do things in America and not necessarily some misshapen public schools concept of "pc." And it includes tons of new members joining organizations, clubs, and groups fighting for our freedoms and access. The rumble grows.

I say, let our RUMBLE be heard loud and clear, from every corner of America to every office building in Washington, D.C. Let our message be clear – coming with the rumble is the LIGHTNING. With pens, shovels, our voices, and our votes, we are going to unleash the beast of sound – the rumble of our power as responsible recreationists who are tired of being ignored and put down.

Some national websites to start with include:

- BlueRibbon Coalition: <http://www.sharetrails.org>
- The Access Army: <http://www.accessarmy.com>
- Americans for Responsible Recreational Access: <http://www.arra-access.org>
- Off Road Business Association: <http://www.orba.biz>
- Save My Trails: <http://www.savemytrails.com>

- National OHV Conservation Council: <http://www.nohvcc.org>
- MuirNet: <http://www.muirnet.net>
- Tread Lightly! : <http://www.treadlightly.org>

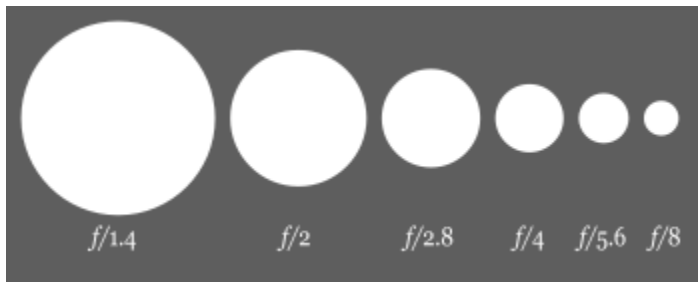
Get in the game. Join, renew, or extend your memberships in off-road/OHV friendly organizations. Donate to good off-road/OHV causes. And let your voice join in with the choir – the rumble of thunder.

Notes from Justin's Photography Class

By Justin Simenson

APERTURE:

The aperture stop of a photographic lens can be adjusted to control the amount of light reaching the film or image sensor. In combination with variation of shutter speed, the aperture size will regulate the film's degree of exposure to light. Typically, a fast shutter speed will require a larger aperture to ensure sufficient light exposure, and a slow shutter speed will require a smaller aperture to avoid excessive exposure.



SHUTTER SPEED:

Shutter speed, or more literally exposure time, is measured in seconds, but often marked in reciprocal seconds. A typical exposure time for photographs taken in sunlight is 1/125th of a second, typically marked as 125 on a shutter speed setting dial. In addition to its effect on exposure, shutter speed changes the way movement appears in the picture. Very short shutter speeds are used to freeze fast-moving subjects, for example at sporting events. Very long shutter speeds are used to intentionally blur a moving subject for artistic effect.

ISO:

Film speed is the measure of a photographic film's sensitivity to light, determined by sensitometry and measured on various numerical scales, the most recent being the ISO system. Relatively insensitive film, with a correspondingly lower speed index requires more exposure to light to produce the same image density as a more sensitive film, and is thus commonly termed a *slow film*. Highly sensitive films are correspondingly termed *fast films*. A closely related ISO system is used to measure the sensitivity of digital imaging systems. In both digital and film photography, the reduction of exposure corresponding to use of higher sensitivities generally leads to reduced image quality (via coarser film grain or higher image noise of other types). Basically, the higher the film speed, the faster the shutter, the worse quality the photo.

“Free” Energy—The Solar Alternative

By Glenn Bontly

I lost track of how many different ways I tried to approach this topic. Since many of you are aware of my “pet peeve” about disturbing the peace by using a noisy generator or vehicle engine to recharge camper batteries, I wanted to present it in such a way so as not to come across the wrong way! There really is a much better way to renew energy while “dry camping”. Okay, it’s not totally free, you have to purchase some equipment up front, and it isn’t inexpensive if you get quality stuff. But after that, there’s no cost, it’s maintenance free, and practically unlimited. I’m referring, of course, to solar power for your camper.

If your style of camping takes you primarily to established RV Parks or Campgrounds (with hook-ups), then you probably won’t be interested in this information. But if you do a lot of “dry camping”, there are numerous benefits to installing a solar system in your rig. I hear a lot of people say that the initial cost of a solar system would take too long to “pay for itself”. The alternative costs more than you may realize; not just in money, but also in time and personal comfort. For example, generators require fuel, which cost money. When you run out of fuel, you have to go get more, which costs time (and fuel to drive to get more generator fuel). Generators require maintenance, more cost. Draining your battery to the point that your camper’s CO detector starts to beep, *dramatically* reduces your battery’s cycle life (the number of times you can discharge/recharge it). At \$100+ for a quality RV battery, that’s significant. How about the “cost” of a good night’s sleep, which you won’t get if you have to get up every few hours to fire up your generator because your battery is too weak to run your furnace. I think you get the point.

My RV solar system is about 8 years old now. I originally purchased and installed it on my Class C motor home, and then transferred it to my current Lance camper in late 2003. It consist of two 75-watt solar panels, a charge controller, a combination volt/amp meter, and two 105 Amp Hour (Ah) RV/Marine batteries. Except for the batteries, I purchased everything from RV Solar Electric (www.rvsolarelectric.com) out of Scottsdale, AZ. Installation is a relatively simple “do it yourself” project. This system will operate everything in our camper, except for the air conditioner and microwave. I’ve dry camped for as long as a full week at a time, and have never run out of power! My system has *long* since paid for itself. With the constant gentle charge from the solar panels, my original two batteries lasted nearly six years! The ONLY maintenance required is to periodically check the water level in the batteries.

As a recent example – Gordy’s Hill for New Year’s weekend. Temps at night were in the low to mid 20s. Jan doesn’t like to be cold, so the furnace gets set between 68 – 70 degrees in the camper – all night! We woke up the next morning after a really good night’s sleep and learned (from our volt/amp meter) that we had used only 25 Amp Hours of power through the night. That’s about ¼ of our usable battery power. With two 105 Ah batteries (for a total of 210 Ah), I can safely use 105 Ah before having to recharge (you don’t ever want to discharge more than 50%). By the time we returned from the trail ride that afternoon, both batteries were back at 100% and ready for another cold night.

If you are interested in learning more about solar systems for your camper, I highly recommend the “RVers’ Guide to Solar Battery Charging”, by Noel and Barbara Kirkby, owners of RV Solar Electric (www.rvsolarelectric.com), \$15 includes priority mail shipping.



For Sale



Warrior Products Safari Roof Rack: Fits 97-06 Jeep Wrangler TJ, used once, \$300. Call Glenn at 505-249-1127.

Tires and Rims: Four (4) 35-12.50 x15 Pro-Comp Mud Terrain tires (2 with 80% and 2 with 70% tread left), extra spares available at no charge, \$240. Four (4) new chrome bead lock steel wheels from Allied, 15x8 with 5 on 5.5 bolt pattern, \$300. Call Guy Conway at 505-362-1132.

Dana 44 Powertrax No-Slip locker with a carrier. Made for 3.92:1 gears and lower, \$250. Call Mark Wolf at 505-856-8539.

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: Input for the Trail Tales is *normally* due to the Editor not later than the **25th of each month**, with publication around the 1st of each month. When circumstances dictate that the club meeting be later in the month, the Editor will extend the submission due date via e-mail notification. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

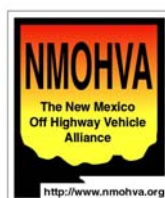
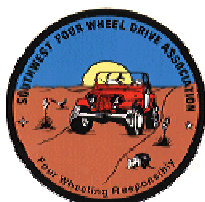
Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Feb 11	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
Feb 24 - 27	2010 Chile Challenge	http://www.chilechallenge.org/	N/A
Mar 11	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
Apr 8	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541

NM4W Officers

President Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 President@nm4w.org	Vice-President Cliff Meier 281-3704 Vice-president@nm4w.org	Secretary Jeanne Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org
Treasurer Mike Coe 896-9581 Treasurer@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Paul Caskey 463-4939 Program-chairman@nm4w.org	Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Mark Wolf 856-8539 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
 Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



March 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From February 11, 2010
by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church on February 11, 2010. Frank G. Whiston called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Guests: Henry Baca, Lynn Yaple, Gerard Vaglio, and Bob Provanie.

Members Present: Jeff Boggs, Pat and Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Rance and Elizabeth Cochrane, Mike Coe, Russ Kaz & Glenna Giboney, Ron and Becca Hyman, Tony Louderbough, Dave Marks, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Dixon and Zeldia Patrick, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Tedd Romero, Chris Sears, Justin Simenson, Paul and Mary Thompson, Jim Werkmeister, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. and Beth Whiston, Mark and Joan Wolf, and Tahoe Zahn.

Secretary's Report – Jeanne Meier: After reading the minutes for a very short period, a motion was made to waive the reading. While the vote was close, the January minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: Mike reported he had \$250 in checks and a balance of \$4,074.39 in the bank account. The checks were for Summer Quarterly registrations.

VP Report – Cliff Meier: Cliff had no fines, but Mike Coe indicated that Russ had paid a fine. Upon further inquiry, we found he had paid a fine for driving into the ravine during the snowy Abo Canyon run. Further discussion indicated several participants on the run should pay a fine for the same infraction, as well as Glenn for losing a snatch block. It was decided you didn't fine the person that strapped everyone out of the ravine. Since most of the Abo run were visitors, Russ was the only one to pay a fine.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: The Carson Forest Service has issued their first Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Jicarilla District. They have combined three other districts and should release that EA in March. The Questa district will be released after that. He encouraged those that took the training to practice writing comments on these even though the Jicarilla has little Jeep roads.

The Santa Fe National Forest EAS is delayed and is now expected in April.

NMOHVA will hold another NEPA training in May. This is to help people evaluate the EA's and to write effective comments.

Magdalena is in the pre-scoping phase. There was a meeting in Socorro which was attended by some club members.

Mountainair and Mt Taylor should be coming out shortly.

BLM is working on the comprehensive management plan for the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument in the Robledo Mountains northwest of Las Cruces. The scoping was due out yesterday.

Mark thanked everyone that contacted their legislators concerning the two NMOHVA bills. The House passed the HR32 Safety bill.

NMOHVA is working with the Cliffhangers concerning possible BLM changes to Glade Area. This area is at Farmington, NM and is a nationally known off-road area.

Trip Chairman's Report – Mark Wolf:

Past Events:

Jan 23rd Abo Canyon Snow Run – Chuck Peeples lead a snow run in Abo Canyon. There were 12 vehicles which were mostly guests. Several people got stuck in the snow. Luckily, Glenn Bontly was able to winch everyone out. Everyone had a good time, but due to conditions, the run was cut short.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

Feb 24th – 27th Chile Challenge in Las Cruces.

Mar 6th Riley NM trail ride – Jeff Boggs - The ghost town of Riley is SW of Belen, west on the Bernardo exit road. There are some old 4x4 roads in the area, as well as the ghost town. Meet in Belen at the Wal-Mart by 7:45 am.

March-April Dusty/San Mateo Mountain area – Pat Brady is planning an overnigher to Dusty, which is SW of Magdalena. This is an easy run, bring a camera. This run is to introduce people to the Magdalena area.

May 29th-31st Magdalena Area – This will base out of the Montessa RV Ranch and will be exploratory runs.

July 21st-24th SWFWDA Summer Quarterly - Creede, CO – There is a web page for the quarterly information. This includes a flyer, the registration and t-shirt order forms, trail descriptions, links to sites with accommodation information and a video. Everyone not staying at the fairgrounds area being encouraged to book accommodations early. Cliff Meier needs trail leaders. Contact him if you are interested.

Program Chairman's Report – Paul Caskey: Paul had club merchandise for sale. He also sold raffle tickets for the 50/50 raffle after the meeting. He is including some tee shirts in the raffle. Paul indicated he was getting low on merchandise and requested money to order more. A motion was made to authorize \$500. Motion passed.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin asked for pictures from our runs/events. He has not received anything recently. He has started a free photography classes before the meetings. They are from 5:30-6:30 at the church.

Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Glenn was not there, so Frank Whiston asked the guests that are interested in joining the club to fill out an application that can be found on the club website.

Old Business:

Raffle tickets for Chile Challenge – A motion was made to spend \$500.00 on tickets for the SWFWDA raffle in Las Cruces. In addition, the club is donating a registration to the Summer Quarterly, as well as some of the summer quarterly t-shirts.

New Business:

Summer Picnic – Joan Wolf reminded everyone that the club has a summer picnic in June or July. The last few have been at Carolino Picnic Area on South 14 in the east mountains. Joan had planned these and wanted to know if she should begin for one this summer. There was discussion concerning looking at other possible locations as well as Carolino. A motion was made that we have the picnic and Joan should locate a site.

4-Wheel drive golf event - Tahoe Zahn asked if anyone would be interested in a 4-wheel drive golf event. After discussion it was agreed that Tahoe would do research on possible locations and report on his findings at another meeting.

Raffle tickets for Chile Challenge – Cliff announced he had raffle tickets for Chile Challenge and encouraged everyone to see him after the meeting.

Frank Whiston thanked Ron and Becca Hyman for supplying tonight’s refreshments.

Meeting was adjourned at about 7:50pm.

The following are the winners of the raffle.

Mark Wolf won one t-shirt and Pat Brady won the other two (two tickets).

Becca Hyman won the 50/50 raffle of \$75.00; her total was \$38.00.

Future Hosts are:

March	Mark and Joan Wolf
April	Mark and Joanne Werkmeister

	<p>President’s Report By Frank G. Whiston</p>
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March is the first month of spring, a logical time to get your 4x4 out of hibernation. Spring is a great time in New Mexico, and a great time to go four wheeling! We are already beginning to get trips on the schedule for summer, but we need trip leaders to fill in spring for us. A good start would be to join Jeff and Russ on the trip to Riley. There are plenty of weekends between that trip and the ones on the calendar in May, so invite the club out on your favorite route or explore for new ones. I know that we have hunters in the club. Take the club for a drive where you went hunting last fall. Despite constantly hearing that our forest roads and trails are in jeopardy, New Mexico still has so much to offer. We are truly blessed to live where we do, and to have public lands to explore, unlike our neighbors to the East. The club has its favorite areas, but it would be good to look beyond that and see what else is out there in areas that we do not go frequently. Check out the Riley trip and maybe it will inspire you to explore.

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

Hello everyone--Just a quick update as I am getting ready to head down to the Chile Challenge.

The first (Jicarilla District) of the three Carson National Forest EA's covering their five Ranger Districts is out for public comment. The deadline for comment is March 12th. You might remember these EA's from late last summer. The Carson decided to re-issue full EA's after we wrote letters complaining about the lack of information in the first round of EA's released. The 2nd EA (El Rito/Canjillon/Tres Piedras) is expected in mid-March with the Questa District following sometime soon after.

We still expect the Santa Fe National Forest EIS to be released sometime in late April.

There is nothing new from the Cibola National Forest about release dates for either the Mt. Taylor or Mountainair EA's.

I spent some time up in Farmington this past Saturday meeting with members of the Cliffhangers and other motorized user groups. We discussed strategy on engaging the Farmington BLM regarding the Glade Run Recreation Area (Chokecherry Canyon).

I sent Scoping comments (under the NMOHVA name) for Scoping on the Prehistoric Trackways National Monument EIS.

It is not too early to start thinking about running for the office of Director of Environmental Affairs for the club. I will NOT be running for a fourth consecutive term this summer.

See you on the trails.

Mark

Trip Chairman's Report

By Mark Wolf

I am considering running a class on leading trails if I can get enough interest in attendance. Please let me know if you would like to attend a class on this subject. It won't be a boring classroom affair, but something more relevant and informative ON THE TRAIL. After all, that's what we're all here for, right? I will be making public the database we have developed for every trail we have run. However, like Glenn Bontly said, he has most of these on his website already. Check them out at <http://www.webejeepin.com/Trails/Trails.htm>, find someone to go with, and go explore to familiarize yourself with the trail. Then you will be a competent and RELAXED leader. The weather is about to turn around and now is the time to get out and find something to go wheel on. We would all like that! Some areas of the state are better run in the colder weather anyway. Also, when you explore these trails you are much better qualified to write comments about them to the BLM or USFS when they are preparing their Travel Management Plans. Two trips are currently planned in the Magdalena area and that will give us a chance to explore that area, for me anyway. One of the areas I have been near, but the other is somewhere I never made it to. I look forward to these. Hope to see you there! We need runs for April – December. Any Leaders available? Exploratory runs are a lot of fun and open up a lot possibilities! Think it over and volunteer. One trip a year from 12 people would be one year's worth. Doesn't sound like much that way, does it? With over 60 families in the club it shouldn't be hard to

fulfill this request. Thanks for volunteering. The guests (and members) will be very grateful as they won't have to stay home and do chores that day!

Trail Ride to Riley, NM – Pre-Run

By Jeff Boggs

Here is an update to the Riley Club Run on March 6th, Saturday. Russ Kaz, Dixon and Zella Patrick, Bud Cole, and I did a pre run on Saturday, Feb 20th.

Regarding the Riley, NM Club Run on March 6th, Saturday, for anybody who would prefer to trailer their 4x4 to the beginning of the dirt road section of this trail run, the Kiva RV Park and Horse Motel, at the Bernardo exit, has offered a place to safely leave your tow vehicle and trailer for the day. For \$10.00, one can leave their tow rig and trailer there. They open at 8:00 am, and that should give everybody time to park and unload by the time the rest of the group arrives from Belen, about 8:30 am. Kiva RV Park and Horse Motel: 505-861-0693, www.kivarvparkandhorsemotel.com. We have a good loop planned. The first 15 miles is 2-wheel drive dirt road, and the last 15 miles returns on the same road. We have found arroyos with obstacles, one of which is quite a challenge, if anyone wants to try it. Russ named it the Pot Hole. I made it, with a lot of spotting, and there are several different lines to try. The rest of trail is a tight, twisting two track, rolling up and down the foothills of the Bear Mountains. A stock 4x4 can do this run, but there are a few obstacles to challenge Big Wheel 4x4's. Here are a few pictures of the area. Bring your camera. Yes, we did encounter some snow. More pictures should be on the Club Section of Picasa.



Snow Run to Abo Canyon

By Glenn Bontly

On Saturday, 23 Jan, NM4W members Glenn Bontly, Kevin Cox, Coleman Hudson, Russ Kaz , Tony Louderbough, Dixon and Zelda Patrick, Chuck and Ethel May Peeples (Tailgunners), and Tedd Romero, were joined by guests Pete and Charlene Argo, Emmanuel and Ashley Argo and Girls (Trail Leaders), Steve Aumiller, Robert Gill, Sam Sandoval, and Blaine Wiles for a snow run to Abo Canyon in the Manzano Mountains. We met at the Belen Wal-Mart at 8 am and headed south and then east towards the trail. This was planned as a “snow run” and we had plenty of the white stuff! The Forest Service Road that let to the trail head was still relatively frozen on our way in, which was a good thing, cuz otherwise, I would have been whining all day long about getting my jeep all muddy! ;o) It’s been quite some time since I’ve been on a snow run. I had forgotten how hard it can be to drive in snow and ice. It didn’t matter how your rig was set up; everyone had trouble! As we got further into the trail, we started to descend, which was no problem, until we started to think about how we were going to get back up the slippery hills (the trail is an “in and out”). At one point, Chuck told us that there were more descents ahead of us, which meant more hills to climb back up to get out. So we made a group decision to turn around and head out. I think everyone ended up getting stuck at one time or another, but we all worked together to keep the group rolling. By the time we made the trip back to the highway, the temps had climbed enough to melt the frozen dirt road. My new flat fenders were intended to be used on rocks, NOT in mud! Luckily, we were just a short distance from the highway when my windshield washer reservoir finally ran out of juice. By the time I shut down the engine at the air-up spot, my windshield and both side windows were solid brown. Below are a few pictures, courtesy of Tony Louderbough.





For Sale



CB Radio: Uniden Pro 510XL, New in box \$40.00. Call Dixon Patrick at 505-401-0344.

Warrior Products Safari Roof Rack: Fits 97-06 Jeep Wrangler TJ, used once, \$300. Call Glenn at 505-249-1127.

Dana 44 Powertrax No-Slip locker with a carrier. Made for 3.92:1 gears and lower, \$250. Call Mark Wolf at 505-856-8539.

2003 Lance Model 1121 (11.5 ft) Truck Camper: ~~\$19,900~~ \$17,000. For details and pictures, go to RV Trader at <http://www.rvt.com/rvdetail4443646.htm>. Call Glenn Bontly at 505-249-1127.

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.

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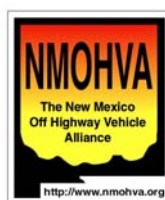
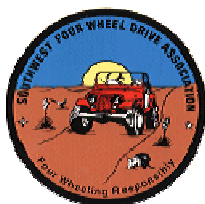
Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Mar 6	Trail Ride to Riley, NM	Call Jeff Boggs	505-867-5848
Mar 11	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
Apr 8	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
May 8	“Go Topless Day” Run	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541

NM4W Officers

President Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 President@nm4w.org	Vice-President Cliff Meier 281-3704 Vice-president@nm4w.org	Secretary Jeanne Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org
Treasurer Mike Coe 896-9581 Treasurer@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Paul Caskey 463-4939 Program-chairman@nm4w.org	Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Mark Wolf 856-8539 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
 Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



April 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From March 11, 2010

by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church on March 11, 2010. In Frank Whiston's absence, Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Guests: Bob and Carol Provance, Tracy and Cheryl Bakewell, Andy Schulze, and Mark Wolfson.

Members Present: Jeff Boggs, Glenn and Jan Bontly, Pat and Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Keith Chapin, Mike Coe, Kevin Cox, Leon Duggar, Keith and Linda Jurey, Russ Kaz, Jason Lavy, Tony Louderbough, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Tedd Romero, Chris Sears, Justin Simenson, Bob Telepak, Mark Werkmeister, Mark and Joan Wolf, and Tahoe Zahn.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the March newsletter, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: Mike reported a balance of \$3,174.62, which included some checks for the Summer Quarterly.

Report – Cliff Meier: For the Riley Run, Too Tall Tony (Louderbough) was fined for being too short and having to be strapped off an obstacle. Deputy Jeanne Meier fined Cliff for failure to disconnect his sway bar, contributing to his problems on the Pothole Challenge. Cliff explained the points to the visitors.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: The Mountaineer Ranger District has released the Environmental Assessment (EA) and comments will be accepted until April 3rd. Bob Telepak had done the mapping for this district and had maps of the different alternatives. He explained the maps and features for the Mountaineer and Galinas Forests, and then he and Mark provided a discussion of the area and the various options. There was a prolonged discussion of this as well as a discussion of how to submit comments. Mark indicated that "form and format" were not as important as "content". He also indicated it might be better to submit each comment separately due the way the process works.

The Farmington BLM released a proposed action for the Chokecherry Canyon/Glade area. Currently, this is approximately 18,000 acres adjacent to the city of Farmington with 3,000 acres open; the rest is limited to designated routes, although this hasn't been properly implemented. The action would make 8,000 acres of the designated area either single track trail, motorized with an alternative to be single track, or not motorized.

Trip Chairman's Report – Mark Wolf:

Past Events:

- Feb 24th – 27th Chile Challenge in Las Cruces
- March 6th Riley Ghost town - There were 16 participants and it was a very good run. This area is new to most club members and there was a bit of everything. A stock Jeep could run without a problem, and there were places that the more-modified jeeps or adventuresome drivers could play.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

- March-April Dusty/San Mateo Mountain area – Pat Brady is planning an overnighter to Dusty, which is SW of Magdalena. This is an easy run, bring a camera. This run is to introduce people to the Magdalena area. The date is not known due to the snow levels. Pat had directions to the camping area at the meeting.
- May 8th Go Topless Run – Details on this will be on the club site.
- May 29th-31st Magdalena Area – This will base out of the Montessa RV Ranch and will be exploratory runs.
- June ? 4 Wheel Golf – check website for more detail.
- June ? Manzano Mtn Run – Cliff and Jeanne Meier are planning a run sometime in June. Check website for date and time.
- July 21st-24th SWFWDA Summer Quarterly - Creede, CO – There is a web page for the quarterly information. This includes a flyer, the registration and t-shirt order forms, trail descriptions, links to sites with accommodation information and a slide show. Everyone not staying at the fairgrounds area is being encouraged to book accommodations early. Cliff Meier needs trail leaders. Contact him if you are interested.

Program Chairman's Report – Paul Caskey: Paul has received the new order of club merchandise. He also sold raffle tickets for the 50/50 raffle after the meeting. He included some tee shirts and a bottle of Maguire's Instant Detailer in the raffle.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Someone had brought in some pictures of the Riley run for the photo class and they were posted to the board. Justin asked for pictures from our runs/events. The photo class only had one attendee. There will be one more class in April.

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

Old Business:

Summer Picnic – Joan Wolf reported she had made arrangements for the Summer Picnic. It will be June 12th at the Oak Flats Picnic area.

Chile Challenge – Cliff Meier reported on the raffle results from Chili Challenge. The club won several prizes.

Summer Quarterly – Jeanne Meier reported that an issue has surfaced with using the Creede Fairgrounds for RV camping. Frank Whiston received a call from Jenny Inge who discovered the zoning at the fairgrounds did not permit RV camping. Tent camping is alright. Jeanne spoke with Martha Owens of

the Creede Chamber of Commerce concerning alternate sites or the possibility of a zoning variance. She and Jenny are trying to work the issue, but nothing had been resolved.

New Business:

Digital Projector for the Club – Bob Telepak suggested it would be helpful to have a digital projector for presentations such as Mark Werkmeister and he had given concerning the Mountainair EA. Pat Brady suggested that an LED projector would be more economical. After discussion, Pat indicated he would try to bring one in for the next meeting.

Hosts for Summer Meetings – Cliff Meier asked for volunteers for the summer meetings. Pat and Sue Brady volunteered for May, Mark Wolfson (visitor) volunteered for July if they were members by then, Tedd Romero and Judy Sandoval for August, and Jason and Sara Lavy for September. It was mentioned that there was no requirement for meeting hosts to be members of the club, so we accepted Mark’s offer.

New Members – Cheryl and Tracy Bakewell had enough points for membership, so a motion was made and passed to accept them as new members. Jack and Terry Evans requested to be associate members. They live in Las Vegas, NM and qualify for the associate membership. A motion was made and passed to accept them as new members.

Cliff Meier thanked Joan and Mark Wolf for supplying the refreshments. Meeting was adjourned at about 8:10 pm.

The following are the winners of the raffle. The secretary failed to record the winners, but Paul Caskey provided her with the 50-50 winner. Pat Brady won \$30.00 and the club’s take was also \$30.00.

Future Hosts are:

April	Mark and Joan Werkmeister
May	Pat and Sue Brady
June	Summer Picnic
July	Mark Wolfson
August	Tedd Romero and Judy Sandoval
September	Jason and Sara Lavy



President’s Report
By Frank G. Whiston

The New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance ([NMOHVA](#)) held their Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 27. Our club continues to have excellent representation in NMOHVA with the outcome of this year’s officer elections. NMOHVA officers serve a two-year term and they stagger elections of the board between years so that they never have the entire board inexperienced. Our own Mark Werkmeister has finished his term as President, but he is not done. He is still on the NMOHVA board for another two years as Past President. The newly elected NMOHVA President was currently serving as NMOHVA Treasurer. I volunteered and was accepted to finish the remaining term as NMOHVA Treasurer. Also, NM4W member Jeff Boggs will continue his second year as NMOHVA board member at large. That said, I encourage NM4W to engage any of us if you have any questions about NMOHVA or any ideas around how NMOHVA can continue to help NM4W and motorized recreation as a whole.

Riley Run

By Jeff Boggs



Saturday, March 6th, 2010, the New Mexico 4 Wheelers did a club trail run to Riley, New Mexico. Riley is an old farming and mining ghost town southwest of Belen, NM. Or, you can get there from Magdalena, by driving twenty miles north to Riley. Russ Kaz and I were trail leaders, and we chose to leave Belen after everybody had gassed up at the Wal-Mart.

60, across the old bridge over the Rio Puerco, and stopped to air down. One more vehicle joined up with us there.

The next 20 miles was "high speed" dirt road with plenty of dust to go around for everybody, except the trail leader, Paula and me. This may be the best reason for someone to volunteer to lead a club run. I have found that most everyone (on the club runs that I have led) are able to adapt to the situation they are in, so everybody just spread out.



We gathered back up a few miles east of Riley and came to the "Fork in the Road". Yes, a real fork on a post, with direction signs. We went right, past several occupied houses, ranches, and after several miles turned off this main west-bound dirt road, onto a small two track to the south. The key to finding this turn off is looking for some big boulders on the side of a mesa. Driving toward them, we soon entered an arroyo that doubles as CR12, County Road 12!! Like Wolfie said, "This is not your ordinary County Road, even for New Mexico".



We took a break, disconnected sway bars (most of us) next to a windmill. We moved off through a gate and entered Forest Land. This is part of the Cibola National Forest, Magdalena District, and the foothills of the Bear Mountains.

This becomes 4-low range territory. Although not difficult, there are places to play, and that is exactly what some of us did on some sandstone ledges on the side of the arroyo/county road. Pat Brady saw a rocky section a mile away, and soon had talked several of us "small-wheeled" jeeps into trying a

pretty steep drop-off. With Pat's expert spotting, everybody made it down with just metal/rock noises. Chuck Peoples even went back UP the ledge, successfully. Off the group went, up the arroyo, a few miles, and turned south, up and out of the arroyo, onto the next part of this county road (some maps designate this FR 12).

This area goes up and down, with lots of twisting and turning. The road is little used, but easy to follow. It would be real interesting at night, any takers? Alamo Well, Cement Trough Springs, and Fall Springs are some of the landmarks along this road, inviting great places to tent camp and hike up and down the arroyos in this area. But the highlight of the trip today was to get to the "Pot Hole" for lunch. Going east down an arroyo took us to this area for a 1:00 lunch break. There is a road that takes the vehicles along the side of the Pot Hole and down to the bottom. This part is washed out and tips 4x4's driver's-side down hill, but everyone made it to the bottom safely. Lunch time and time to look at



the Pot Hole, searching for a path up this long sandstone waterfall. This solid rock waterfall has ledges, off cambers, tight squeezes for small tire 4x4's, and some extreme lines also. Several people tried the north side of the obstacle. A good spotter helped guide the vehicles, but there were always sounds of high centering, and nearly everybody had to back up and change their angle of attack, especially near the top where a tricky, extreme tilt to the right had all the vehicles getting very close to a large rock outcropping that could cause right rear body damage. Pat and Sue Brady (and "Taylor" the Wonder Dog) drove their Tacoma up and out, becoming the first ever truck to do this area. Seeing this made up Cliff Meier's mind that he had to try his luck going up the Pot Hole. Up into the entrance, over the first ledge, and a high center or two got Cliff to the dangerous tilt-to-the-right section. He got his jeep up in the air, left front tire, then rolled back out of it slightly, and tried again and again before he felt that left front tire finally start to lower back down to earth. After that, Cliff's jeep worked its way across the top and out onto flat sand.



Anybody else still down at the bottom drove back up the bypass road, which was not that easy, with its wash out, off camber section. Cliff did mention that he had never disconnected his front sway bar, and this contributed to his lack of flex, but definitely increased the entertainment value of this lunch break.

Back to CR 12B, we worked our way back to a couple of gates on FR 354W. There are several other short side roads off this main route, but time to get to Riley. We got back on FR 354, turned north, and then turned to the east and across the Rio Salada.

Riley is on the other side of this flowing river. Riley was a farming and mining area. Gold, silver, lead, and coal were sent to Denver for treatment. There is an old school house, and a little church that has a mass one day a year. Other adobe walls are scattered about.

The group checked out the buildings and visited for a while. Time to get back to civilization, so we headed back toward Belen on the same dirt road that we had been on this morning. Great views of Ladron Peak (to the south) were visible through the dust clouds that we generated on the way back down into the Rio Grande valley.



We hope to do this trip again, and for those who missed out, try to make it next time. Special thanks to Russ and Glenna for tailgunner duties, like gate closings and general herding of the group. We also did a pre-run of this route and pictures are on the Picasa club site of both runs. Please send in your pictures, also. It was a great group to show around and this made our day pretty easy.

Looking forward to the club trip down to this area on Memorial Day weekend. See ya there!!!

Stop the Stink!
Public Lands in Trouble, but Help is on the Way
By Del Albright, BlueRibbon Coalition

It stinks! – some of the things happening to our country these days. It stinks! - what some people are trying to do to our public lands. There is a “smell” to the undercurrent that is nit-picking at our freedoms and it is time to “Stop the Stink!”

It stinks that a well-funded bunch of anti-access folks are influential enough to turn our mountains and deserts into untouchable museums viewed from afar; that these same folks who don’t like motors would want to see us park all our toys in the garage; and it really stinks to see gates going up on trails and roads we’ve enjoyed for decades. We must stop the stink and soon.

BlueRibbon Coalition and many other organized recreation groups are tired of the “smell” and doing something about it. You have to be a part of stopping this stink in order for the war on access to be won, this plan is not complicated!

First off it’s important to realize that all organized recreation groups have a purpose, and most of them blend into the same cause like BlueRibbon’s motto – to keep “Public Lands FOR the People Instead of FROM the People”. It’s all about access and access for all.

Next it’s critical you know that YOU are the key and should belong to every organization that makes sense to your beliefs. That is the most important thing you can do in these times because we face a numbers game and we need more numbers (members) in all groups. Now more than ever we need your membership in organized recreation because the stink is spreading and we must stop it.

The folks who don’t like our chosen life styles have more money than us. So what? There are millions of OHV enthusiasts who are just now realizing how serious this stink is and are waking up to the threats, so let’s ALL get together and fight it.

Many influential people now see that you just can't dress up stink to make it smell good and look "purdy." TV personalities, influential columnists, and land use activists are getting stronger and more vocal in their messages all the time. Stink is stink; let's stop the stink together!

I am writing this article from a solid base of research and first hand experience to help us stop the stink. I am fortunate to be a full-time land use and recreation activist working as an Ambassador for BlueRibbon Coalition, while also volunteering with several other organized groups fighting for our access like my state association, the California Association of 4Wheel Drive Clubs (CA4WDC).

I am in contact with recreationists all over the country (and even the world) who are concerned with the "smells" they are experiencing. While attending dozens of events around the country from the TDS Desert Safari, to Sierra Trek in CA, to Jeep Beach (FL in May), to Wisconsin and Minnesota, to Moab (many times), SEMA, Off-Road Expo, and countless other gatherings, I have heard thousands of folks tell me the same things about the "stink".

I've talked to Moms worried about their kids having a place to ride as they grow up. I've been around many a campfire where sons talk about the places they used to go with their Dad, and no longer can go due to some unnecessary Wilderness or trail closure. I've seen the tears of old timers who have witnessed their heritage being stolen, one gate at a time. It stinks!

The message is clear. We need action and not just words. We need folks to take up pens, shovels, and dig out the smelly stuff to root out the problems. We need unity in our action and harmony in our voices. But most importantly we need to do something. OHV enthusiasts, four-wheelers, snowmobilers, and riders from all over agree: it is time to unify more and fight back to stop the stink.

Join up or renew your commitment to BlueRibbon Coalition, your state association and those groups that make sense to you. Do it today. Write those letters and sign those petitions when asked. Do it when asked. And if you really want to save our recreational future, go get 10 of your non-joining friends and fellow motorheads to do the same. You can make a difference, and you can help stop the stink.

+++++

More news from Del:

RLTC Online Volunteer Training Course: Recreational Leadership Training Course (RLTC) is a unique (nothing else like it in the recreation/off-road world) online volunteer training course with several hundred students/graduates around the country. If you have it on your desk, it is never too late to start. If you've been thinking about starting, now is a good time. Learn more here: <http://www.rltc.biz>.

Land Use Blogs: I am getting pretty good about keeping up my land use blog and you can subscribe to follow right here: <http://jeepndel.blogspot.com/>. My BlueRibbon partner, Don Amador has a very active blog as well right here: <http://thegeneralsrecreationden.blogspot.com/>.

Access Army: If you've not seen the new Access Army, with our pens and shovels, please visit: <http://www.accessarmy.com>.

BlueRibbon Coalition: If you've not seen the new BlueRibbon Coalition website and magazine, this is worth a cruise through. Check it out at <http://www.sharetrails.org>. These folks are the grassroots leaders nationally for saving trails, sharing trails and keeping our sports alive and well. Join or donate to BRC here: https://www.sharetrails.org/secure/join_or_contribute/.


For Sale


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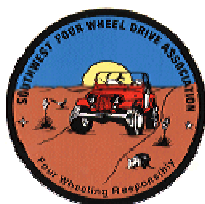
Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Apr 8	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
Apr 10	Sagebrush Flats Trail Ride	Call Tony Louderbough	505-232-0345
May 8	“Go Topless Day” Run	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
May 28-31	Memorial Day Weekend Campout	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541

NM4W Officers

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Trail Tales
 31 La Mirada
 Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



May 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From April 8, 2010
by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church on April 8, 2010. Frank Whiston called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Guests: Bob and Carol Provance, Andy Schulze, Mark Woolfson and Faith Dwyer.

Members Present: Tracy Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Glenn and Jan Bontly, Pat and Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Rance and Elizabeth Cochrane, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Linda Jurey, Russ Kaz, Jason Lavy, Tony Louderbough, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Dixon and Zelda Patrick, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Chris Sears, Justin Simenson, Bob Telepak, Paul and Mary Thompson, Frank and Donna Whiston, Frank and Beth Whiston, Mark and Joan Wolf.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the April newsletter, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: Mike was not present, but Frank reported a bank balance of \$3,362.62, which includes \$670.00 from Summer Quarterly 2010 registrations. In addition, Frank had an additional \$1,050.00 in checks for Summer Quarterly registrations that were not included in the balance.

Report – Cliff Meier: Cliff explained the points to the visitors. Pat Brady and Russ Kaz voluntarily paid fines. Reference the Trip Chairman's Report.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Mark Werkmeister was not present. Frank reported that the Mountaineer Ranger District had closed the comment period. Cibola National Forest was beginning the scoping period for the Magdalena district. Future trips are to familiarize members with the area.

Trip Chairman's Report – Mark Wolf:

March ? Pat Brady did a scouting run for a trip to the Magdalena area. The person that was going to go with him backed out at the last moment, so Pat, Sue, and dog were alone when they encountered Toyota-eating mud. After attempts to extricate themselves failed, they walked for help. 8 hours and 19 miles later they were able to get cell phone coverage and called Mark Wolf for a rescue. The date for the trip to Magdalena will be after the snow melts and the mud dries up. Pat put in a generous fine. Russ Kaz volunteered a fine for backing out.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

- April 10th Sagebrush Flats Trail Ride – Tony Louderbough/Mark Wolf. Meet at the Conoco Station at the intersection of Hwys 550 & 528 at 9 am. This is an easy-to-moderate trail (depending on how much snow there might be, if any). Bring lunch, water, and warm clothes for unpredictable weather.
- April 25th NM International Auto Show – Frank Whiston reported the show will be at the Albuquerque Convention Center. They would like 8 to 10 vehicles.
- May 8th Go Topless Day Run – Frank Whiston - The New Mexico 4-Wheelers will join All Things Jeep and off-road clubs across the nation for Go Topless Day 2010. This includes a half-day trail ride at Cedro Peak and a picnic lunch afterward. We will line up at the gravel parking area near the intersection of Chamiso Canyon Road and NM 337 (South 14) and depart at 9:00 AM, so get there a little early to allow yourself time to air down. We will plan to have the picnic at Pine Flat, which is ~2 miles South of where the trail loop rejoins NM 337.
- May 26th NMCCC Car Show – See website for information.
- May 29th-31st Memorial Day Weekend in the Magdalena Area – The Montessa RV Ranch was sold and is currently closed. A new base camp for the weekend will be identified. These will be exploratory runs to familiarize members with the area.
- June ? 4 Wheel Golf – check website for more detail.
- June ? Manzano Run – Bob Telepak will lead a run in the Galinas area of the Mountaineer District.
- June /July Manzano Mtn Run – Cliff and Jeanne Meier are planning a run sometime in June. Check website for date and time.
- July 21st-24th SWFWDA Summer Quarterly - Creede, CO.

Program Chairman's Report – Paul Caskey: Paul had merchandise for sale. There is a limited selection of hats and he may need to place an order soon. He was selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle. There were additional prizes for the raffle from club winnings at Chile Challenge.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: The last photography class had met. People were to bring some of their own pictures to be discussed. Justin talked to the church and may offer more classes in the fall after meetings resume at the church. He reminded people to send him pictures.

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Glenn told the guests that if they were interested in the club they should fill out an on line application. The website has been updated with information he's received on the Summer Quarterly.

Old Business:

Summer Quarterly 2010 – Frank Whiston reported on the issue with the fairgrounds zoning. After being notified last month that the fairgrounds was not zoned for overnight RV camping, alternate sites had

been sought. Jenny Inge (Fairground Manager) and Martha Owens (Creede Chamber of Commerce) tried to get a waiver. When everything failed, New Mexico 4-Wheelers made an agreement to use the fairgrounds at a reduced price, but only for tent camping. All current registrants that indicated they were planning to camp at the fairgrounds have been notified of the change. A similar notice was sent to the President of SWFWDA member clubs. Glenn made changes to the club web page for the Quarterly, including new information on RV parks and forest service camping.

Digital Projector for Club – Pat Brady forgot to bring the LED projector that was discussed at the last meeting. Bob Telepak had brought in information on the Dell projector that sells for \$350.00. Pat will have one at the next meeting, which is at Pat and Sue’s home.

New Business:

New Mexico International Auto Show – Frank Whiston received an email from Joe Showalter that this year’s show will be on April 25th in the Convention Center. They would like the club to have 8 to 10 vehicles from the club. Talk to Frank for more information.

New Mexico Council of Car Clubs – Frank was notified this will be May 16th. They would like to have some entries from our club. There is a \$10.00 charge to enter a vehicle. See Frank for more information.

Frank thanked Cliff and Jeanne Meier for supplying the refreshments. Meeting was adjourned.

The following are the winners of the raffle.

Jeff Boggs	Maguire Instant Detailer
Tony Louderbough	License plate frame and LED light
Paul Caskey	New Mexico 4-Wheelers t-shirt
Andy Schulze	\$27.00 from the 50/50 raffle, total was \$54.00

Future Hosts are:

May	Pat and Sue Brady
June	Summer Picnic at Oak Flats Picnic Area
July	Mark Woolfson & Faith Dwyer
August	Tedd Romero and Judy Sandoval
September	Jason and Sara Lavy



President’s Report

By Frank G. Whiston

After finishing cleaning up the Jeep so that it is presentable for the NM International Auto Show, I realized something. Most of the scratches and dents on the Jeep happened in the garage, not on the trail! As I was scrubbing on the Jeep, I would come to a scratch and recall how it happened. Of course, I am not talking about the bumpers and rock sliders; they are there to take the abuse. Besides, those scratches display that this Jeep goes places and is used to at least some of its potential. I am talking about the deeper paint scratches. Those are the ones that seem to all happen while parked in the garage.

Anyway, the point I am trying to make is to encourage everyone to get out in your rig and hit the trails. It is really better for it than to get buried in the garage and have stuff fall on it. There was good discussion about potential club runs this spring and summer, so keep an eye on your email and the

website for opportunities to get out. I am looking forward to a good wheeling season and hope to see all of you out on the trail.

Sagebrush Flats Loop Trail

By Mark Wolf



Sometime in February, I was talking to Tony Louderbough about leading a trail for the easy-to-moderate group. I told him that I would take him out on a couple of trails that I had in mind so that he would know where they are and could lead them. We got together Sunday March 28th and headed out to Santa Fe to check out the Sagebrush Flats Loop Trail. When we got to the beginning of the USFS property, we were met with a locked gate. Well, so much for showing him that trail! So we headed to Cuba and tried the Ventana Mesa Trail. That one was snow bound and we couldn't get through! Sorry Tony, I guess we'll have to do this later. However,

we were committed for an April 10th run date. Now what? Well, Tony made SEVERAL calls to the Espanola District USFS office and finally got a hold of the person in charge of opening gates. He assured Tony the gate for the Sagebrush Flats area would be open on April 10th. So we decided I would lead instead, and take him and the group to this trail.

On the morning of April 10th we were met by 8 other vehicles all wanting to go out and enjoy this perfect weather day! And perfect it would be! Bob & Carol Provane in their Hummer, Curt Huber and friends in his Bronco II, Blaine and Amanda Wiles with their three children in their 2010 FJ Cruiser and his Father and Mother (Gary and Anne Wiles) in their 2010 Rubicon, Brian and son Nick Payson in their 00 TJ, Greg and daughter Bailey Miller in their 2010 FJ Cruiser (guests of the Turpin's), and Jack and Terry Evans in their 00 XJ were all guests. Members present were Tony Louderbough in his TJ, Craig Turpin with his daughters Xa and Hanna with a friend, Bob Telepak in his XJ, and Joan and myself in our (Joan's?) ZJ. Jack and Terry (friends of Tony) live in Ilfeld, NM and met us in Santa Fe.



We traveled to Santa Fe and out to the air down area where everyone who wanted to aired down their tires. We did not know how much mud or snow we would encounter, but we were ready for it. As we headed out, it was immediately dusty and actually stayed that way all day! And to think that only two weeks ago this gate was locked due to potential "resource damage" from wet conditions! The trail was even easier than I remembered, but it was noon when we got down to the lower part of the trail for lunch. After an hour long stop for eats and chat, we started the procession towards the end again. The area with all of the rocks seemed to be void of rocks this year

and everyone made it through with no issues. In no time at all, we were at the end of the trail and it was time to air up our tires again. Those that had not aired down headed out right away.

The views were great and all had a good time. No one even got remotely stuck or even had trouble that I know of. It was a great first-time run for visitors and no one had any trouble at all. Wow! A trail with no stuck, no breakdowns, and no one getting lost! Ok, I did have a valve core blow out on air down and caused Joan's car to get a flat tire, but I found the valve core and promptly aired up the tire to the correct pressure. I don't think I held anyone up.



I appreciate everyone coming along for this perfect day and a great trail. We ended up with 11 vehicles total – a great number! Tony said he was glad I led as he would never have found the trail. Bob Telepak was of course “real time” tracking the entire trail for his records and later sent the track to me for future use. Glenn has had this on his website for a long time and the track is easily gotten from him anytime. Thanks again for a great bunch of Four Wheelers!

	For Sale	
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Jeep YJ Axles: I have the stock axles from my '95 YJ for sale, both front and rear (Dana 35 and Dana 30). Four axle shafts total, for sale as a set or separately. Could make good spares. Willing to consider any offers. Also a used Detroit TrueTrac locker for a Dana 30 for \$200. Call Paul Caskey at 505-796-4907.

CB Radio: Uniden Pro 510XL, New in box \$40.00. Call Dixon Patrick at 505-401-0344.

Dana 44 Powertrax No-Slip locker with a carrier. Made for 3.92:1 gears and lower, \$250. Call Mark Wolf at 505-856-8539.

Rear Bumper for Jeep TJ. Wilderness brand -- see part # 34910 at http://www.wildernessracks.com/jeep_wild_bump.html. Good condition, all hardware included, \$150. Also **OE Rubicon Fender Flares** (slightly "pre-scuffed" at no extra charge :), \$60. Call Paul Thompson at 505-293-8390.

9" rear differential: with 58" track width, 4.56 gears, Detroit locker, 35 spline axles, Strange engineering center section, Daytona pinion support, center section skid plate, 11' drum brakes e-brake lines, 1350 yoke, 5 on 5.5 bolt pattern, Currie 9+ housing, housing skid plate, extra 1.5" wheel spacers included, \$1,500.00. Call Pat Brady at 505-898-6449.

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: Input for the Trail Tales is *normally* due to the Editor not later than the **25th of each month**, with publication around the 1st of each month. When circumstances dictate that the club meeting be later in the month, the Editor will extend the submission due date via e-mail notification. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

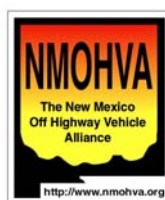
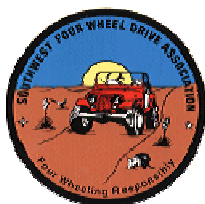
Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
May 8	“Go Topless Day” Run	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
May 15	Club Meeting at the Bradys	Call Pat & Sue	505-898-6449
May 28-31	Memorial Day Weekend Campout	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
Jun 12	Annual Club Picnic/Meeting	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
Jul 21 – 24	Summer Quarterly, Creede, CO	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541

NM4W Officers

President Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 President@nm4w.org	Vice-President Cliff Meier 281-3704 Vice-president@nm4w.org	Secretary Jeanne Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org
Treasurer Mike Coe 896-9581 Treasurer@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Paul Caskey 463-4939 Program-chairman@nm4w.org	Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Mark Wolf 856-8539 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
 Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



June 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From May 15, 2010

by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held at the home of Paul Caskey on May 15, 2010 at 5:00 pm. Frank Whiston called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. He thanked Paul for hosting the meeting on late notice.

Guests: Mark Woolfson and Faith Dwyer.

Members Present: Paul Caskey, Mike Coe, Keith and Linda Jurey, Ed and Lyn Kausche, Russ Kaz & Glenna Giboney, Jason and Sara Lavy, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Dixon and Zeldia Patrick, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Jack and Stella Sierra, Mark and Joanne Werkmeister, Frank and Donna Whiston, Frank and Beth Whiston, Mark and Joan Wolf.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: Jeanne reported an error in April minutes which indicated they were March 2010. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the March newsletter with the correction, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: Mike reported a bank balance of \$3,392.06. In addition, he had checks from the April meeting of \$1,050.00, as well as an additional \$540.00 in checks and cash for May from Summer Quarterly registration.

Report – Cliff Meier: Cliff explained the points to the visitors and noted that Mark Woolfson & Faith Dwyer would have 5 points with this meeting. Cliff indicated that Paul Thompson owed a fine after taking a wrong turn during the Go Topless Run leading several others astray. Paul was not present. Mark Wolf was assessed a fine for losing a valve stem during the Sagebrush Flat Run.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Mark Werkmeister reported that the Gila was getting ready to release their EIS. He encouraged every one to request a hard copy.

Mountainair received over 18,000 comments. While many of the comments will not be substantive, it will take a while to work through them.

Santa Fe National Forest had moved the release of their EIS to late June.

Farmington BLM is still considering changes to the Glade area plan.

Trip Chairman's Report – Mark Wolf:

Past Events

April 10th Sagebrush Flats – The weather was chilly. While there was a patch of snow, the trail was dusty. Half the participants were visitors.

- April 25th NM International Car Show - There were 7 vehicles that participated. The club had flyers to pass out.
- May 8th Go Topless Day – There were 18 vehicles that participated. The weather was cold and windy, but everybody had a good time. Paul Caskey won first prize for being topless and also removing his doors. Other prizes were awarded.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

- May 26th NMCCC Car Show
- May 29th-31st Memorial Weekend in the Magdalena Area – Frank Whiston and Cliff Meier scouted a location to camp. **Directions:** From Magdalena Continue West on US 60 for about 12 miles. Turn South (left) on State Road 168. There is a large brown sign marking the road showing 17 miles to Beartrap CG along with several other destinations. Go about .5 miles and through the fence. The camping area is on the left, just past the fence. There will be a pot-luck on Saturday night. There will be runs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. These will be exploratory runs to familiarize members with the area. Check the website for more details. Bring extra gas if possible.
- June 12th June meeting and picnic at Oak Flats Picnic area. See website for details.
- June 19th Gallinas Ruin Run – Bob Telepak will lead a run in the Gallinas area of the Mountaineer District to see an Indian ruin.
- June 26th Paliza Canyon Cleanup – This is the first of three days for cleanup.
- June 27th Manzano Mtn Run – Check website for date and time.
- July 21st-24th SWFWDA Summer Quarterly - Creede, CO – There is a page on the club web site with information on the quarterly. New information was added on Creede commercial RV parks and forest camping.
- July 31st Paliza Canyon Cleanup – This is the second day for cleanup.
- Aug 14th Paliza Canyon Cleanup – This is the last day for cleanup.
- Sept 4-6th Mount Blanca – Labor Day weekend. This is an overnighiter. Mount Blanca is a difficult run, meaning there is a good possibility of vehicle damage.
- Trekking in the Gila Pat Brady is considering a trek in southern New Mexico (Gila) if there is enough interest. This would be a 3 or 4 day trip with tent camping as it would not be working from a base camp. If you are interested, notify Mark Wolf or Pat Brady.

Program Chairman's Report – Paul Caskey: Since the meeting was at Paul Caskey's, he had all the merchandise available. Paul was also selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle. There are additional prizes for the raffle, including old style club t-shirts and some DVD's from Jeepers Paradise.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin was not present. Remember to get him pictures from the club runs or post to the website.

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

Old Business:

Summer Quarterly 2010 – Frank Whiston reported that everything is on schedule for the Summer Quarterly. He would like to have a meeting before the June picnic for the current volunteers, as well as anyone else that wants to attend. He will be sending out a notice. Cliff indicated he had brought trail books with him if anyone wanted to review them. He needs trail leaders and tail gunners. Jeanne Meier indicated she had 25 registrations and had received some additional ones at the meeting. The 4WDrivelines should be out shortly and hopefully additional registrations will come in after that.

New Business:

Summer Picnic – Joan Wolf asked if the club was going to pay for the meat, drinks, and utensils for the picnic as it has in the past. There are large grills already there. A motion was made to spend up to \$200.00 for the meat, drinks, and supplies--motion passed.

Prizes for Summer Quarterly – Cliff Meier suggested that NM4W use the prizes it won from the Chile Challenge raffle as prizes for the Summer Quarterly. None of the prizes are worth more than \$25.00. Frank Whiston had been told you needed a permit to hold a raffle in Colorado. The suggestion was made to give each registration a ticket and set out a donation jar for the land use fund. A motion was made to give the prizes from Chile Challenge as prizes for the Summer Quarterly. Motion passed.

Dues – Frank Whiston reminded everybody that dues are payable by July 31st. Please bring them to one of the next two meetings or mail them to the club or Mike Coe. Dues are \$35.00 for Voting Members and \$17.50 for Associate Members.

Election of Officers for 2010-2011 – Frank Whiston reminded everyone that the election of officers is coming. Mark Werkmeister and Frank Whiston are not running for office. If you are interested in running, please let Frank know.

New Members – Mark Woolfson and Faith Dwyer have enough points for membership. A motion was made that they be accepted for membership, motion passed.

Frank Whiston thanked Paul Caskey for hosting the meeting on such short notice.

Meeting was adjourned.

The following are the winners of the raffle.

Mike Coe	Club T-shirt
Mark Wolf	Club T-shirt
Mike Coe	DVD
Faith Dwyer	DVD
Cliff Meier	\$30.00 from the 50/50 raffle which totaled \$60.00

Future Hosts are:

June	Summer Picnic
July	Mark Woolfson and Faith Dwyer
August	Tedd Romero and Judy Sandoval
September	Jason and Sara Lavy



President's Report

By Frank G. Whiston

June is time to think about Club Officer Nominations. Please consider nominating yourself! I have served on the board for the past five years and it has been a very rewarding experience. I highly recommend a board position to any active member. That said; I will not be seeking re-election to the NM4W board this July. I do plan to remain an active member of the club!

It is also time to remind everyone that it is not too early to think about paying your annual club dues. Voting members pay \$35.00 and Associate dues are \$17.50. The June and July club meetings are a convenient time to pay your dues. Dues may also be mailed to the club's mailing address (P.O. Box 90154, Albuquerque, NM 87199-0154). Remember, dues are delinquent on the first day of September, and all rights and privileges of membership will end. It is important to get your dues in on time due to the fact that we send an updated roster to SW4WDA in September to ensure that all current NM4W members receive the benefits of membership in that organization, including the subscription to 4WDrivelines.

Also, please check the roster on the members' only page to ensure that the information posted there is up-to-date. If you have moved and the roster has not been updated, you will not receive your subscription to 4WDrivelines. Send any corrections to webmaster@nm4w.org and secretary@nm4w.org.

International Car Show

By Jeff Boggs



The New Mexico 4 Wheelers and NMOHVA had a public event at the downtown Convention Center on Sunday, April 25th.

The NM4W's were invited to show off their 4x4 vehicles at the International Car Show all day. There were 9 club vehicles, all shined up, that pulled into an exhibit hall early that morning. After we lined up our 4x4's, the club members hung up the NM4W banner and we also hung up the NMOHVA banner for all to see.

The group spent the entire day talking the public and with each other about the Club, its history, vehicle modifications, and where we go in New Mexico to 4 wheel.

We passed out information about NMOHVA also. We attracted a lot of attention, and by the end of the day, we had passed out all of the NM4W flyers and all of the NMOHVA cards.

This was good exposure for the Club and NMOHVA. There were thousands of people wandering around checking out new cars, classic cars, and some very polished up 4x4's.



Thanks to the New Mexico 4Wheelers for supporting NMOHVA at this event.

Discoverers, Developers, and Merchants
How “old west” gold mining and modern landuse are similar

By Dell Albright

BlueRibbon Coalition Ambassador; CA4WDC State Chair for Environmental Affairs

The old prospector no longer gave a hoot about all the talk of getting rich during the 1849 gold rush. No matter how he looked at it, it was dang hot and ugly mean in the western desert, and he'd not had a decent drink of water or a good meal in days. He was hot and tired; his mule was dragging; and his supplies were about gone. He was having about as much fun as a jack rabbit at a coyote picnic.

With no gold in his pockets, he gave up for the day and settled in next to a ledge of rocks that provided some shade. He tipped back his sweaty worn-out hat and began to collect a few rocks to make a small fire ring. The last of his hard-tack would taste mighty fine about now and he still had one can of beans to heat up. Then it struck him like a mule kick in the butt! His fire ring of rocks was the best gold ore he'd ever seen. He was suddenly going to be a rich man living the life of luxury.

The old prospector was a “discoverer.” Discoverers are those that find the ore or the strike, but usually don't have the capital to develop a gold (or silver) mine. Sometimes in the 1800's it was common to have to sink a shaft 200 – 300 feet or more to get the “good stuff.” So the discoverer would sell out to the developer, who did have the money, manpower, and backing to fully develop the mine.

Of course, all this while the merchants -- the business men who brought the shovels, beans, bullets, and other supplies that miners needed – were establishing the long-term trade and supply routes to build this country while supporting the mining development. It all came together, the discoverers, the developers and the merchants. Today, landuse is not much different.

In short, the discoverers in landuse are the local folks who are “prospecting” their way through the maze of government, just trying to recreate and enjoy the great outdoors with their toys. Discoverers find problems (bad government decisions, unnecessary road closures, unwarranted gates, etc.), then bring in the developers (larger landuse organizations) to help out. Merchants are the off-road businesses of today who support the developers. It all comes together – just like in the mining days of the “old west.”

Allow me to break this down for you a bit more. Let's take the example of a “local Joe,” just a lone-ranger kind of recreationist, who finds that his favorite trail is being closed up tighter than a tick on a hound dog. He makes a few phone calls; writes a couple letters; and gets the typical run-around. So then he moves it up a notch and finds a local club to engage in the fight. “Local Joe” is our prospector who gets things started with his local knowledge, expertise, and passion – he's the discoverer.

Soon it becomes evident that professional help and perhaps even legal advice might be crucial in saving this trail, so the locals reach up to the bigger organizations at the state, regional, and national levels – the developers with the money (hopefully everyone has been joining and supporting these bigger organizations so they do have some strength). Naturally, the merchants – the off-road businesses – are in the game as well by supporting the big orgs and clubs out there prospecting and developing to help keep the gold mine (the sport) alive and well.

It all comes together, just like in the old mining days of the American west. Well, that is to say, if we're all working together, making the system work, and finding unity in our voices.

If you read my writing very often, you know I love metaphors and analogies. This piece is no different. Here you go. Our freedom to explore is a treasure in this great country of ours. Our recreation is a gold

mine, if you will. Be a “discoverer” who works to prospect for new ways to keep our sports alive and our trails open. Join and support the “developers” who are the big orgs helping to support you and your local trails. Finally, buy from “merchants” who support our local, state and national efforts, as we all prospect for a brighter, gold-filled future. ☺

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The BlueRibbon Coalition is a national recreation group that champions responsible use of public lands and waters, and encourages individual environmental stewardship. It represents over 10,000 individual members and 1,200 organization and business members, for a combined total of over 600,000 recreationists nationwide. 1-800-258-3742. <http://www.sharetrails.org>. CA4WDC is the state 4WD Association for California at <http://www.cal4wheel.com>.



Jeep YJ Axles: I have the stock axles from my '95 YJ for sale, both front and rear (Dana 35 and Dana 30). Four axle shafts total, for sale as a set or separately. Could make good spares. Willing to consider any offers. Also a used Detroit TrueTrac locker for a Dana 30 for \$200. Call Paul Caskey at 505-796-4907.

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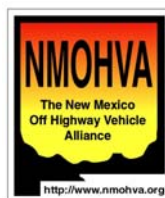
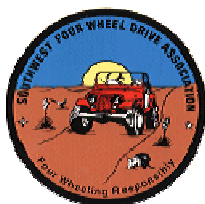
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Jun 19	Gallinas Ruins Run	Call Bob Telepak	505-869-8117
Jun 27	Manzano Mountains Run	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
Jul 21 – 24	Summer Quarterly, Creede, CO	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
Aug 20 – 22	Zuni Mountain Campout #5	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541

NM4W Officers

<p>President Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Cliff Meier 281-3704 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Jeanne Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
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<p>Trip Chairman Mark Wolf 856-8539 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
 Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



July 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From June 12, 2010

by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held at Oak Flats Picnic area off of South Hwy 14 on June 12th, 2010 at 5:00 pm. Frank Whiston called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. He thanked Joan and Mark Wolf for putting everything together.

Guests: Cody Bakewell, Tracy Hinkel, Ali and Michelle.

Members Present: Tracy and Cheryl Bakewell, Mark and Maria Berglund, Glenn and Jan Bontly, Pat and Sue Brady, Mike Coe, Leon and Marcia Duggar, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Ron and Becca Hyman, Keith and Linda Jurey, Ed and Lyn Kausche, Russ Kaz & Glenna Giboney, Jason and Sara Lavy, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Dixon and Zelda Patrick, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Tedd Romero & Judy Sandoval, Carlos and Laurye Tanner, Bob Telepak, Paul and Mary Thompson, Don and Sarah Walker, Frank and Donna Whiston, Frank and Beth Whiston, Mark and Joan Wolf.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the June newsletter; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: Mike reported a bank balance of \$6,021.86. He had additional checks to be deposited.

Report – Cliff Meier: Cliff explained the points system to the visitors and noted that several people were eligible for membership, only one of which was present. Cliff told Paul Thompson he had a fine after taking a wrong turn during the Go Topless Day run leading several others astray. This was accessed at the last meeting. Paul argued it wasn't his fault which got him a "whine" fine. Cliff said there was a fine from Memorial Day he couldn't remember, but that Frank G Whiston owed a fine for not knowing which way to turn while leading a run. As whining continued, Cliff remembered that Pat Brady should be fined for not having a CB when he was trail leader. It was then suggested that Cliff should be fined for not remembering who to fine.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Mark was not present. Frank G Whiston indicated that the Santa Fe EIS was now due the end of July or the first part of August.

Trip Chairman's Report – Mark Wolf:

Past Events

May 26th NMCCC Car Show – Lauri Rector reported that she and Jeff were the only ones from the club to participate at the show, but that several club members attended. There were over 400 vehicles entered.

May 29th-31st Memorial Day Weekend in the Magdalena Area – Frank G. Whiston reported that there was a good turnout. Friday, a group went over past Datil. The trip included a stop at the Davenport Lookout. Pat Brady reported the Saturday run was to Grassy Lookout via Monica Cabin, then to the Mt Whittington Lookout. Sunday was NM50 to Hudson Canyon, Red Canyon, and Grassy Lookout.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

June 19th Galinas Ruins Run – Bob Telepak will lead a run in the Galinas area of the Mountaineer District to see Pueblo Blanco, Pueblo Colorado, and an unnamed ruin. The road to these ruins is scheduled to be closed in the future.

June 26th Paliza Canyon Cleanup – This is the first of three days for cleanup. Contact Tony Louderbough for more information.

July 10th July meeting at Carlos and Laurye Tanners at 5:00 pm - See Member's Only Page on the website for directions, or e-mail webmaster@nm4w.org.

July 11th Manzano Mtn Run – Cliff and Jeanne Meier are planning a run in the Manzano Mtns. Meet at the Sandia Ranger Station at 8:30 am for those coming from Albuquerque. Those coming from Los Lunas and Belen may come via Mountainair and meet at village of Manzano. This will include some roads that are scheduled to be closed in the future. Check website for more information.

July 21st-24th SWFWDA Summer Quarterly - Creede, CO – There is a page on the club web site with information on the quarterly. Check new business and website for more information.

July 31st Paliza Canyon Cleanup – This is the second day for cleanup.

Aug 14th Paliza Canyon Cleanup – This is the last day for cleanup.

Aug 20th-Aug 22nd Zuni Campout – This is the fifth annual campout that Jeeps West has sponsored. Frank G Whiston needs to know who will be attending, so please send him an e-mail. See website for more information.

Sept 4-6th Mount Blanca – Labor Day weekend. This is an overnigher. Mount Blanca is a difficult run, meaning there is a good possibility of vehicle damage.

Trekking in the Gila Pat Brady is considering a trek in southern New Mexico (Gila) the latter part of September or the first part of October. This is a multiple day trip beginning near Magdalena, crossing the top portion of the Gila, and going into Arizona before returning to Albuquerque. This is tent camping. Watch the website for more information and contact Pat if you are interested.

Conejos CO Area Frank G Whiston is considering a fall color trip to the Conejos area. Watch the website for more information.

Program Chairman's Report – Paul Caskey: Paul was not there. Jason Lavy was selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle. It looked like the pot was going to be very good based on tickets he'd already sold.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin was not present. Remember to get him pictures from the club runs or post to the Picasa website.

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Glenn reminded everybody that they need to send him any updates to the schedule to get them on the website. Any guests interested in joining the club or getting the newsletter should complete an on-line membership application on the club website.

Old Business:

Club dues – Frank G. Whiston reminded everybody that it is time to pay dues. They are due by the end of July, delinquent in August, and membership is terminated if not paid by September 1st.

Election of Officers – Frank reminded everybody that the election of officers for 2010-2011 will be held at the July meeting. Notify him if you would like to run for an office or nominate someone.

New Business:

July Meeting - The July meeting will be at Carlos and Laurye Tanner’s house on July 10th. Mark Woolfson and Faith Dwyer had volunteered to host the meeting when they were still guests and the meetings were being held at the church. They were concerned their home would be too small for the numbers that attend the summer meetings. Laurye says there shouldn’t be any snow and hopefully no rain that have caused problems in the past.

Picasa Photo Site - Frank brought up an issue with the clubs Picasa website. We are close to the maximum size allowed for free accounts. It costs \$5.00 a year for a larger site. A motion was made to purchase the larger site. Motion passed.

Summer Quarterly 2010 – Frank reported that everything is on schedule for the Summer Quarterly. He will be placing an order soon for the t-shirts, so order them now. Registrations will continue to be taken. He needs a volunteer to call Mountain View at Rivers Edge RV to confirm that they will sell showers and to find out how much they charge. He also needs a volunteer to put together trail and camp rules. Joan Wolf volunteered for the latter. Registration packets will be put together closer to the date.

New Members – Cody Bakewell was present and had enough points for membership. A motion was made to accept Cody for membership, motion passed.


Frank thanked Joan and Mark Wolf again for all the work they had done organizing the picnic. He thanked others that help with the setup and cooking.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Paul Thompson won \$57.00 in the 50/50 raffle. The clubs share was \$58.00.

Future Hosts are:

- July Carlos and Laurye Tanner
- August Tedd Romero and Judy Sandoval
- September Jason and Sara Lavy

	<p>President’s Report by Frank G. Whiston</p>
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It is that time of year again. Yes, it is time to pay your club dues, but it is also time to think about who you would like to nominate for 4-Wheeler of the Year. NM4W has a number of deserving volunteers who keep the club going and initiate the fun activities that we all enjoy. This is the time for you to recognize who you feel is most deserving for this honor and show your support for all that they do. There will be a ballot box at the July club meeting in a couple of weeks, so be ready to cast your vote.

It is also time for officer elections. This will also occur at the July club meeting. I would love to see some new faces on the board. It is important to have new viewpoints on the board and this is accomplished with new people. Please consider nominating yourself.

Memorial Day Campout

by Frank G. Whiston



Back in January, Wolfie and I traveled down to Socorro to attend one of the Magdalena Ranger District's Travel Management public workshops. Pat and Sue Brady were also at this meeting. After the Forest Service did their presentations, they had the attendees mark comments on maps they had printed of the area which contained all of the roads that the forest service presently have logged in their inventory. Pat has spent a lot of time in the district and I listened as he described things while marking up the maps. I had always wanted to explore within the Magdalena Ranger District, and this pushed me to make some plans for the Memorial Day

weekend.

We decided to make it a longer holiday weekend and arrived at our campsite on Thursday afternoon. Our first choice was the Montosa RV park, but it had changed ownership and closed, so we found a nice spot on a strip of BLM land ~12 miles West of Magdalena just off of US 60. The next morning, a small group set off for the mountains near Datil, NM. First stop was Davenport Lookout where we had a 360-degree view of landmarks such as Mt. Taylor, the Zuni Mountains, and the San Mateo Mountains. There was a forest service employee in the lookout tower (on the watch for forest fires) who appeared to enjoy having some visitors. From here, the plan was to head north and make a loop back to highway 60 out to the west. Part of that loop exited the forest land at the northern end for a short distance where we ran into a locked gate. We were then forced to backtrack the way that we came in. Once we hit the highway and aired up, Cliff suggested that we go to Pie Town since it was just over the Continental Divide from where we hit the highway. We all enjoyed having a slice of pie at the Pie-o-neer in Pie Town.



Saturday, Pat Brady took the lead and took us on a tour of the San Mateo Mountains. With a total of 16 vehicles, we headed south from camp, passing by Monica Cabin FR 52 and circling around the east end of the Mt. Withington Wilderness area. Lots of Pronghorn Antelope as well as a herd of elk were spotted in this area. Continuing on, we joined SR 107 for a few miles, then took FR 330, passing the old ghost town of [Rosedale](#). The road climbed to nearly 10,000 ft where we stopped for lunch at the Grassy Lookout. There was a lookout tower here that gave excellent views to the south and west, but was unattended at the time. After lunch, we traveled following a ridge along the western edge

of the Mt. Withington Wilderness leading us to the top of Mt Withington. At an elevation of 10,119 ft, there was another unattended lookout tower with a commanding view of the Plains of St. Augustine. Then FR 549 would lead us back to camp.

That evening, we all gathered for a pot luck dinner and a campfire afterwards. We expected that it would rain, based on experience from last year's Memorial Day campout in the Jemez and being a firm believer of Murphy's Law. The weather was perfect! The food was excellent as was the company. The Duggars really outdid themselves by bringing a delicious pan of brisket that they had brought back from Texas. The turnout for this was great! We also had a few folks from the High Desert Cruisers 4x4 club join us and they are a fun group. After the pot luck, we had a campfire and made smores.



I originally had in mind to explore the Baldy Peak trail in the Magdalena Mountains on Sunday, but decided against going there with a large group, not knowing the status of that trail. So we went back into the San Mateo's starting on FR220, which took us to the West side of the forest. The road took us through Point of Rocks Canyon leading out to NM 52, which we took south for roughly 26 miles. We then turned back into the forest on FR 478. Pat took the lead (Fine Paid) and took us to a beautiful lunch spot under cottonwood trees and next to a running stream. From there, we continued to the point where the FS has

closed the road in West Red Canyon. After a short backtrack in this beautiful canyon, we continued up Hudson Canyon, eventually climbing back to the ridge road near the Grassy Lookout.

This was a great trip, and although there was nothing really challenging as far as 4-wheeling, the scenery was great and it really gets you away from everyone. We only saw a couple of other people the whole weekend, and it was a holiday! There are lots of roads down there that can and should be explored.

Remembering Russ

by Joan Wolf



Russ Kaz passed away unexpectedly on June 23, 2010. On that day, the world lost a gentle and caring man; the club lost a friendly and active member. And saddest of all, Glenna Giboney lost her beloved companion.

When Russ joined NM4W four years ago, he hadn't been four-wheeling for 20 years. But then he bought a Wrangler and wanted to get out on trails. Fortunately for the club, Russ and Glenna became regulars on camping trips and day runs. Once Russ regained his 4WD driving skills (it didn't take long), he seemed to delight in any challenges put forth by Chuck Peeples or others. Russ would break into a wide, boyish grin after maneuvering over a rock obstacle or scaling a difficult ledge.

A quiet man, Russ enjoyed many small-group trips with the Thompsons, Meiers, and Whistons, among others. From above the tree line in the Colorado Rockies to the red rock in Moab, Russ loved getting out in his Jeep with Glenna and friends. And he preferred “getting back to camp by 3:00 pm”, Mary Thompson fondly remembers.

Russ was a Navy veteran and worked in various technical fields over the years. In 2009, he returned to a former career as a Patient Care Technician in hemodialysis. He cared for very sick people, all who had to endure kidney dialysis for hours, several days a week. It was tough but rewarding work. Jeff Boggs, a dialysis nurse with the same employer, says that Russ was very good at his job and a valued member of his unit. Russ was diligent about doing everything the right way and he cared about his patients.

Russ’ last club function was the June 12 summer picnic. He and Glenna were first to arrive and they jumped right in to help carry loads and set up. When the work was done, Russ sat at a picnic table with 2-year old Rebecca Whiston. He appeared totally engaged with her stories and stickers and toys. Russ made a little girl feel happy and special.

Russ Kaz will be sorely missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Glenna.



Club Membership Dues
by Mike Coe

It is the time of year again when the Birds of Paradise are in bloom, the birds are singing, etc., etc., etc. It is also the time of year when your New Mexico 4-Wheeler dues are due. I plan to attend the coming meeting at the Tanner's and the Summer Quarterly in Creede, CO. Those are good times to pay up. After Creede, I will be traveling and plan to miss the August meeting, so it would be most convenient if you would all take care of this matter by the end of July. Dues are \$35.00 for regular members and \$17.50 for Associates. You can also send a check to the following address:

Michael A. Coe
1583 17th Ave SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124



For Sale



Jeep YJ Axles: I have the stock axles from my '95 YJ for sale, both front and rear (Dana 35 and Dana 30). Four axle shafts total, for sale as a set or separately. Could make good spares. Willing to consider any offers. Also a used Detroit TrueTrac locker for a Dana 30 for \$200. Call Paul Caskey at 505-796-4907.

Dana 44 Powertrax No-Slip locker with a carrier. Made for 3.92:1 gears and lower, \$250. Call Mark Wolf at 505-856-8539.

Rear Bumper for Jeep TJ. Wilderness brand -- see part # 34910 at http://www.wildernessracks.com/jeep_wild_bump.html. Good condition, all hardware included, \$150. Also **OE Rubicon Fender Flares** (slightly "pre-scuffed" at no extra charge :), \$60. Call Paul Thompson at 505-293-8390.

9" rear differential: with 58" track width, 4.56 gears, Detroit locker, 35 spline axles, Strange engineering center section, Daytona pinion support, center section skid plate, 11' drum brakes e-brake lines, 1350 yoke, 5 on 5.5 bolt pattern, Currie 9+ housing, housing skid plate, extra 1.5" wheel spacers included, \$1,500.00. Call Pat Brady at 505-898-6449.

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: Input for the Trail Tales is *normally* due to the Editor not later than the **25th of each month**, with publication around the 1st of each month. When circumstances dictate that the club meeting be later in the month, the Editor will extend the submission due date via e-mail notification. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

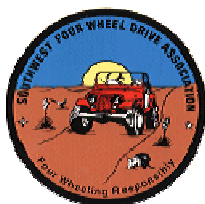
Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Jul 10	Club Meeting at the Tanner's	Call Carlos or Laurye	505-281-0994
Jul 11	Manzano Mountain Ride	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
Jul 21 – 24	Summer Quarterly, Creede, CO	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541
Aug 20 – 22	Zuni Mountain Campout #5	Call Frank Whiston	505-292-1541

NM4W Officers

President Frank G. Whiston 292-1541 President@nm4w.org	Vice-President Cliff Meier 281-3704 Vice-president@nm4w.org	Secretary Jeanne Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org
Treasurer Mike Coe 896-9581 Treasurer@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Paul Caskey 463-4939 Program-chairman@nm4w.org	Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Mark Wolf 856-8539 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
 Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



August 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From July 10, 2010
by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held at the home of Laurye and Carlos Tanner July 10th, 2010 at 5:00 pm. Frank Whiston called the meeting to order at 6:10pm. He thanked Laurye and Carlos for hosting the meeting.

Guests: Bob and Carol Provance, Lonny Moody

Members Present: Cody Bakewell, Glenn & Jan Bontly, Paul Caskey, Mike & Kristy Coe, Robert & Hollie Hohlfelder, Keith & Linda Jurey, Tony Louderbough, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Dixon & Zeldia Patrick, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Tedd Romero & Judy Sandoval, Carlos & Laurye Tanner, Frank R & Donna Whiston, Frank G & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: Jeanne reported two corrections to the June minutes that were pointed out by Faith Dwyer and Glenn Bontly. The meeting had been listed as the 11th instead of the 10th and the Manzano run was shown as the 12th instead of the 11th. A motion was made to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: Mike reported a bank balance of \$6,385 + \$5.00 in cash.

Report – Cliff Meier: Cliff got a fine, but the secretary did not record the infraction.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Werkmeister: Mark was not present. Frank G Whiston reported that Carson National Forest had released the Tres Piedras and 2 more districts EIS. The comment period is supposed to end July 17th, but their website did not have the documents for several days so it is not known if the deadline would be extended. We are waiting for the EA from Santa Fe National Forest.

Trip Chairman's Report – Mark Wolf:

Past Events
June 19th

Galinas Ruin Run – Bob Telepak led several vehicles in the Galinas area of the Mountaineer District to see Pueblo Blanco, Pueblo Colorado, and an unnamed ruin. The road to these ruins is expected to be closed. The ruins were unexcavated, but the third ruin had distinguishable rooms. There were a large number of pottery shards to admire. The day was quite hot, but everyone enjoyed the trip. The run included an area of juniper and pinõn trees; there were periodic Ponderosa pine that were quite large and obviously quite old from the diameter of their trunk. Lunch was held under one and everybody sat under about a third of the tree.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

- July 11th Manzano Mtn Run – Cliff and Jeanne Meier will lead a trip to the southern part of the Manzano Mtns. Meet at the Sandia Ranger Station at 8:30 for those coming from Albuquerque. Those coming from Los Lunas and Belen may come via Mountainair and meet at the village of Manzano. This will include some roads that are scheduled to be closed. Check website for more information.
- July 21st-24th SWFWDA Summer Quarterly - Creede, CO – There is a page on the club web site with information on the quarterly. Check the website for more information.
- Date unknown Paliza Canyon Cleanup – Watch the website for this event.
- Aug 20th-Aug 22nd Zuni Campout – This is the fifth annual campout that Jeeps West has sponsored. Frank G Whiston needs to know who will be attending, so please send him an email. *(NOTE: This event has been cancelled.)*
- Sept 4-6th Mount Blanca – Labor Day weekend. This is an overnigher. Mount Blanca is a difficult run, meaning there is a good possibility of vehicle damage. See website for more information or contact Keith Jurey.
- Trekking in the Gila Pat Brady is planning a trek in southern New Mexico (Gila) the latter part of September. This is a multiple day trip beginning near Magdalena, crossing the top portion of the Gila and going into Arizona before returning to Albuquerque. This is tent camping. Watch website for more information and contact Pat if you are interested.
- Oct 7th – 10th Frank G Whiston is considering a fall color trip to the Conejos area. Watch the website for more information. Frank may have to cancel this trip due to work schedule.

Program Chairman's Report – Paul Caskey: Paul had all the merchandise in his car for anyone that was interested. He was also selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin was not present. Frank said since the size of the clubs space on Picasa had been increased, Justin was planning to go through some of the CD's and possibly upload some to the website.

Web Master & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Glenn did not have anything to report.

Old Business:

Election of Officers – Frank G Whiston indicated that this month was the election of officers. Mike Coe, Justin Simenson, and Jeanne Meier agreed to stay in their jobs. Some members volunteered for offices and others were nominated. The members elected the following:

President	Cliff Meier
Vice-President	Dixon Patrick
Director of Environmental Affairs	Mark Wolf
Treasurer	Mike Coe
Secretary	Jeanne Meier
Program Chair	Mark Woolfson
Trip Chair	Tony Louderbough
Historian	Justin Simenson

Club dues – Frank G Whiston reminded everybody that it is time to pay dues. They are due by the end of July, delinquent in August, and membership is terminated if not paid by September 1st. Mike Coe is going to be gone in August so please mail them to him as soon as possible.

New Business:

Liability Waiver - Jeanne Meier questioned whether a liability waiver should be used as part of club runs. The waiver is part of the quarterly registration and the event web page mentions liability, but with the number of visitors that we are having she questions if that was adequate. Lauri Rector indicated that the waiver didn't really protect the club and the club would be named in any lawsuit. In addition, the officers and directors could also be named. It was decided that the waiver could do no harm. A draft will be developed for the club approval at the next meeting.

Mark's Casa Jeep Chrysler Jeep Jam and Web Site – Lonnie Moody, the internet manager, came to the meeting to talk about Jeep Jam that will be held July 31st at their dealership. This is an event to connect with the consumer about off-road opportunity and etiquette. Mark Wolf will be one of the speakers. They would like to have members attend and bring their vehicles to display. He also would like for our club to link to the Jeep Jam website. Frank G Whiston and Glenn Bontly will investigate the site to determine whether it is appropriate for us to have this link.

Summer Quarterly 2010 – Frank G Whiston reported that everything is on schedule for the Summer Quarterly. He and others will be going to Creede early, but the event runs from the 21st through the 24th in Creede, CO.

New Members – Bob and Carol Provance were present and had enough points for membership. A motion was made to accept them for membership, motion passed.

August Meeting – Tedd Romero and Judy Sandoval would like to hold the meeting on August 7th at their home in Bosque Farms. See the website Member's Only Page for directions to their home.

Frank G Whiston thanked Laurye and Carlos again for hosting the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10.

Raffle:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Club Shirts | Frank R Whiston
Carol Provance
Lauri Rector
Bob Norton |
| Casa Oil Change | Bob Norton
Carol Provance |
| 50/50 Raffle | Linda Jurey |

Future Hosts are:

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| August 7th | Tedd Romero and Judy Sandoval |
| September | Jason and Sara Lavy |



President's Report

by Frank G. Whiston

I am very impressed with how well the Rendezvous on the Rio Grande went. We ended up with ~54 vehicles registered and the SWFWDA Summer Quarterly meeting had a quorum that was as big as what is seen at the Chile Challenge! I also want to thank all of the volunteers who made the event such a success. Special thanks to Cliff and Jeanne Meier. They worked their tails off at the event as trail boss, getting up at 5:30 AM each morning and doing registration, and leading trails! Here is a list of the contributors (hopefully I do not leave anyone out): Rance Cochrane, Money man Mike Coe, Erwin and Jeanne Greven, Russ Kaz, Tony Louderbough, Ted Romero & Judy Sandoval, Laurye Tanner, Bob Telepak, Paul Thompson, Don Walker, Mark and Joan Wolf, and the Baileys. As you can see, it took effort from a lot of people. Having this help made the event enjoyable for everyone and spread the responsibilities out and kept the level of effort from being overbearing. It is truly an honor being a part of this club.

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

Hello everyone,

The Santa Fe National Forest has released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for public comment! This is the big one. This is what we have all been working so hard for AND where we get to put our training to use.

A couple of KEY points:

1. There is a 45 day comment period. But the clock hasn't started 'ticking' just yet. The 45-day clock will start when the Legal Notice is published in the Federal Register. I will keep an eye on that and will let you know the deadline when we know it. In the meantime, the DEIS document is out and available for review (and comment) on the SFNF website. The link directly to the document and maps is:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgt/deis/index.html>

2. Only those people who submit substantive comments by the comment deadline will be able to appeal the Final Decision when it is released.

A substantive comment is one that:

- (a) questions, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the EIS;
- (b) questions, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of environmental analysis;
- (c) presents reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EIS; [or]
- (d) causes changes or revisions in the proposal.

The only things the public can do to oppose a decision from an EIS are 'comment on the draft EIS, appeal the final decision, sue if the appeal is rejected'. And they are all linked. It all depends on the comment you write on the Draft EIS. Your appeal has to be based on the comment you submitted during the comment period on the Draft EIS. You can't file a lawsuit unless you have gone through the appeal process. Your lawsuit is based on the comment you appealed.

What does a lawsuit say??? A lawsuit says a law has been broken!!!! The only law that controls the travel management decisions are the NEPA regulations. The only things the NEPA regulations specify are requirements for the process and procedures the agency must follow when it is doing the EIS and making the decisions.

Therefore, the only way you can accuse the USFS of having broken a law, is to show they didn't follow NEPA process and procedures as required by the CEQ regulations (Those are part of federal law, the Code of Federal Regulations, the 'CFR'). This why we must write comments that show the USFS did not comply with the required process and procedures.

But remember, NEPA requires that the Forest Service use the best available science and that they draw logical conclusions based on facts. If they play 'fast and loose' with the facts and use those errors to make a decision, you can point out the error that caused the bad decision. That is a substantive comment!

3. I have only done a cursory review of the DEIS so far, but it looks like most of the requested trail segments that NM4W asked for are at least included in Alternative 4 (including the entire Hill and Dale trail, the Guadalupe Crossing up to Holiday Mesa, etc). This is very good. The Deciding Officer (in this case, the Forest Supervisor, cannot choose to include things in the Final Decision that are not in the Alternatives. He IS allowed to combine elements from various alternatives into a single decision. THIS IS IMPORTANT: Again, remember sending in a comment that says, "I support Alternative 4." Or "Alternative 4 is better than Alternative 2 is better because it has more roads open," is NOT a substantive comment.

NEPA controls the PROCESS used to make the decision, but not the decision itself. If we don't agree with the decision, we need to provide facts that show the decision was flawed because the underlying errors in the document caused the decision maker to make a bad decision based on those errors.

4. I expect NMOHVA to sponsor another training session on how to write a substantive comment on the DEIS. If you weren't able to attend the last training and want to attend one, please let me know ASAP so I can get your name on the list. I will advertise the date and information of the training session if/when the details get worked out.

5. All the effort the club and you, as individuals, have put into Travel Management on the Santa Fe National Forest has come down to this 45-day period. This is not a drill, this is the real thing. The efforts we put forward during this comment period will DIRECTLY affect our access to the Forest for the foreseeable future.

I will continue to feed more information to all of you as I get the opportunity to review and analyze the document. In the meantime, please feel free to email or call me with any questions, suggestions, information needs, etc.

Your lovable DEA,

Mark

PS. Oh, by the way, we have heard the Mt Taylor Travel Management Draft EA will be released July 28th or 29th. Are we having fun yet?

Manzano Mountain Trail Run – July 11, 2010

By Cliff Meier



This run was into an area that Bob Telepak had mapped a couple of years ago in preparation for the Manzano Ranger District Travel Management plan. That fall we assisted in finding some roads that were on the National Geographic software map that Bob had not traveled. In November 2007, the first of 4 fires hit the Manzano Mountains and the area was closed until this summer.

The day dawned with some cloud cover, but 12 club member and 3 visitor 4X4s with accompanying hardy souls met at the Sandia Ranger station and proceeded 45 miles to the trailhead for a day in the

southern Manzanos. As we passed through the village of Manzano, we picked up another Jeep. The first half of the trip on FR 522 wound through an old CCC camp, a logging area, past the ruins of an old stone house, and through the edge of the 2008 Trigo forest fire area. During the pre-run we saw a small bear in this area, but he didn't hang around to greet the group! After exiting FR 522, we proceeded to Dr Bob's Rocky Road off FR 422. The rocky road provided slight challenge to stock vehicles, but a visitor driving a new Nissan Xterra managed to remove a side step on one of the rocks. We stopped at 5 Mile Windmill for lunch before continuing SW and then looping back to the north in search of Hidden Canyon. Hidden Canyon was a road on the National Geographic software map, but had been lost to time. It is not expected to be on the Ranger District's formal motor vehicle usage map. However, it is the fastest way out from the south end of the Manzanos. There had been a flash flood through the canyon earlier this year that had washed out sections of the road and made it slightly more challenging.

As we made it back to the main road and aired up, the rain started. Part of the group braved the rain and stopped at the Quarai Ruins just west of the village of Punta de Agua. With the exception of the fire areas that have been logged, there was very little evidence of any other vehicles. Overall it was a good run with the cloud cover keeping the temperature down and no vehicle problems except for the Nissan's side step. As a side note, the visitors must have liked the run because they have all submitted membership applications!



Photos from the Summer Quarterly 2010

by Frank G. Whiston





For Sale



Jeep YJ Axles: I have the stock axles from my '95 YJ for sale, both front and rear (Dana 35 and Dana 30). Four axle shafts total, for sale as a set or separately. Could make good spares. Willing to consider any offers. Also a used Detroit TrueTrac locker for a Dana 30 for \$200. Call Paul Caskey at 505-796-4907.

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Club Notes

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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.

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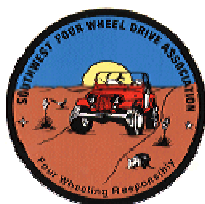
Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Aug 7	Club Meeting at Romero/Sandoval's	Call Tedd or Judy	505-869-3260
Aug 21	Jemez Mountains Trail Run	Call Jeff Boggs	505-867-5848
Sep 11	Club Meeting at the Lavy's	Call Jason or Sara	505-710-4928

NM4W Officers

<p>President Cliff Meier 281-3704 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Dixon Patrick 271-9133 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Jeanne Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Mike Coe 896-9581 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Mark Woolfson 294-2753 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Tony Louderbough 232-0345 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Wolf 856-8539 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
31 La Mirada
Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



September 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From August 7, 2010
by Beth Whiston



Meeting was held at the home of Tedd Romero & Judy Sandoval. Dixon Patrick called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

Guests: Paul Ayscue, Joe Nickerson.

Members Present: Dixon Patrick, Chuck & Ethyl May Peeples, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Tedd Romero & Judy Sandoval, Chris Sears, Paul & Mary Thompson, Frank & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Mark Woolfson & Faith Dwyer.

Secretary's Report – Jeanne Meier: (not present).

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: (not present). Account balance is \$5,200.72.

Vice President's Report – Dixon Patrick: Cody Bakewell received a fine for getting lost in Santa Fe. He could not figure out the GPS in his phone. Another fine for Cody for being late to claim his door prize at the Quarterly. His mom claimed it. Also a fine for Mike Coe; he got lost in Santa Fe AND Creede!!

Trip Chairman's Report – Tony Louderbough: (not present). Wolfie, Dixon, and Lauri had some information on upcoming runs.

- August 15 -- CCC (Council of Car Clubs) will be having their All Clubs Picnic at Nambe Falls (up north on the way to Santa Fe). Registration is \$5/car. There are directions and a map on the CCC website. Bring a side dish. There will be burgers/dogs and ice cream. 11 AM – 4 PM.
- August 20-22 -- Zuni campout has been canceled.
- August 21 -- Jemez Mountain run (Jeff Boggs).
- September 4-6 -- Mt. Blanca (Keith Jurey).
- September 22-26 -- Pat Brady trip to the Gila. They will leave from Belen Wal-Mart at 9 AM. To go on this trip you must be self contained and carry plenty of gas. Brady needs confirmation if you want to go.
- September 24-26 -- NM Council of Car Clubs 32nd Annual Swap Meet in Los Lunas. NM4W receives a free space for promoting the club. The club has to pay for a space if we want to sell items. There was a motion for the club to pay for the spot. Motion passed. NM4W will be paying for a space at the swap meet and club members can sell items.

Wolfie made contact with Ruidoso Ridgerunners about a possible campout and trail ride. More information to come in email. Wolfie also contacted the Alamogordo club and will possibly set something up in November to go out there.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Wolf: Carlsbad BLM is taking comments right now, due August 30th. The BLM is beginning to start a Resource Management plan revision (i.e....shut off roads for use where they can get away with it!) and they need our comments to show them we like to travel on those roads.

SFNF has released their draft EIS, comments due on September 30th. This is **CRITICAL** for us to attend and give comment this coming Thursday night, 8/12/10. The Santa Fe National Forest will be giving us a chance to comment on their proposal to close more than 50% of all current roads in the Forest under the provisions of the “proposed action” for the Travel Management Plan. Please spend an hour or so and go to this meeting in RIO RANCHO at Grace Outreach Center, 2900 Southern (just west of Golf Course Road on Southern – south side of street). The meeting starts at 6:00 PM and goes until 8:30 PM. You DO NOT have to stay the whole time, just long enough to get your name on their registration list and pick up a comment sheet. Your presence will make a difference and it will give you a chance to see what they are proposing. Please, please, please, please try to make this! I will see you there!

The Magdalena RD is accepting scoping comments for their beginnings of a Draft EIS for their work on the Travel Management Plan and they are due August 24th at the Supervisor’s office in Albuquerque (look them up in the phone book). Even though you may have attended a meeting about this very thing in Socorro back in March, this is the official period of comments and ones that count. The earlier meeting was a show-and-tell meeting and did not count – kind of an exercise! If you attended the Memorial Day runs, Frank has plotted all of our travels that weekend in a way that all can see what they are to use them for their comments. Just send him an email, or better yet, call him and ask how to view them. This is a close-by area that holds a lot of beautiful scenery and one that we need not loose. If you have not attended or have not heard about this stuff, it is a way for the USFS to put the noose around us off-highway users to keep us corralled in a smaller area. Your comments are critical to future use.

Program Chairman’s Report –: Mark Woolfson. Changed it to Buy 2 shirts get 1 FREE. He is open for suggestions for participation prizes on different runs. He has been in touch with businesses in town for some door prizes.

Historian’s Report – Justin Simenson: (not present).

Webmaster & Editor’s Report – Glenn Bontly: (not present).

Old Business:

PAY YOUR DUES! Grace period ends August 31st. After August 31st, anyone who has not paid up will revert back to guest status and will have to earn points and be voted in again as regular members. August 31st is the absolute cut off.

Liability Waiver – Jeanne Meier was looking into this. Not present at the August meeting.

Mark’s Casa Jeep Jam – There were quite a few Jeeps! They had hamburgers and gave out prizes. Mark’s Casa wants to do this again in spring and fall.

New Business:

SWFWDA needs an updated roster. We will send that in after all the renewals.

Mark's Casa Jeep has offered a room to hold our meetings. There was discussion about the location of the Jeep dealership. The church is centrally located. A motion was made and passed to keep the meetings at the Church in the winter months. We can keep Mark's Casa Jeep in mind maybe for the Christmas party.

Renewal for the church is coming up. We have given them a donation in the past – give \$200 in the fall. Motion made and passed that the club will donate \$200 to the church where we hold our winter meetings.

The points are in! Frank G. Whiston earned the most club points as well as most points for trips led! He will receive two gift certificates \$100 each to Desert Rat.

The NM4W's did well at the Quarterly – Frank Whiston suggests we donate some money to NMOHVA and the SWFWDA Land Action fund, \$400 to SWFWDA and \$400 to NMOHVA. Wolfie amended it to \$500 a piece. Frank estimates we made about \$900 at the Quarterly. There was a motion made and passed that the club donates \$500 each to SWFWDA and NMOHVA.

Next meeting on September 11th at the Lavy's house.

Members to vote in: Jerry Ward out of Las Cruces (Current treasurer of SWFWDA) applied for an associate membership. Frank Whiston would like to sponsor him as an associate member. Motion passed. Paul Ayscue is eligible for membership. Motion passed.

Thank you Tedd and Judy! Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

Winner of the 50/50 drawing: Tedd Romero & Judy Sandoval! \$30.00

Raffle Winners:

- XL Creede shirt – Jeff Rector
- NM4W shirt – Dixon Patrick
- LED Flashlight's (donated from Harbor Freight) – Dixon Patrick, Wolfie (2 times), Frank G., Paul Thompson (2 times), Jeff Rector, Chris Sears, Judy Sandoval
- Digital meter – Paul Thompson



President's Report by Cliff Meier

Hello from your new president! Sorry I wasn't able to make the August meeting, Jeanne and I were still in Colorado after the SW4WDA Summer Quarterly in Creede. We went on to the Denver Mile High Jeep Club's annual All-4-Fun in Silverton. Since we returned home, we have had several e-mails from members of other clubs that attended the Quarterly. All the e-mails have been very complementary on how well run the Quarterly was and the good time they all had! Our club has been well known in the past for putting on excellent events and this year's was no different. I want to thank everyone for their work before and at the Quarterly. We could not have been successful without your participation.

As you all know, Mark Werkmeister' term as the club's Director of Environmental Affairs has been completed. Mark has done an outstanding job. It takes a special person to do this important job. Mark Wolf (Wolfie) has taken the reins from Mark at a critical time. Within the last few weeks, three important documents that will determine which 4X4 trails will be open for us to use have been published. The documents are the Mt. Taylor Travel Management Environmental Assessment, the Santa Fe Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), and the Magdalena Travel Management Proposal. The Santa Fe DEIS includes the Jemez Ranger District, which is an area that we wheel in. It is very important that as many of us as possible get involved in the comment process for these documents. During the Creede Quarterly, we had a visit from the local COHVCO representative, a Colorado off road organization similar to our NMOHVA. The discussion turned to the Rio Grande Forest Service Ranger District's Motorized Off-Road Usage Vehicle Map. This Ranger District's map was published in 2009 when their travel management process was completed. There were two very distinct examples of what happens when there is little input from the user community. The published map has only 17 miles of ATV trails. Secondly, this Ranger District contains the headwaters of the Rio Grande River. These headwaters are a trophy trout fishing area. The published map does not include any of the existing river access roads. So, my point is please get as involved as possible!

I'm excited with some of the new wheeling opportunities, along with our traditional runs in the coming year. Wolfie and Tony Louderbough (our Trip Chairman) are working to set up joint runs with other New Mexico 4X4 clubs. The first is a weekend trip with the Ruidoso Ridge Runners at Bonita Lake outside of Ruidoso. In addition, Pat Brady is organizing a trekking type trip in the Gila area. If there is a run you would like, contact Tony and let him know. Don't be surprised if he tries to recruit you to lead it! We need more folks to lead runs. It's not that hard and there is lots of help to get you started.

One last thing, I have noticed that attendance at our monthly meetings has dropped off, both last winter and this summer. It is important that as many folks as possible attend the meetings. This is everyone's club, but if you don't come to the meetings you won't be able to influence the direction the club goes. Next month I plan to send out an e-mail questionnaire on how we can improve meeting attendance and the club overall. Please respond. All responses will confidential.

Thanks again for letting me be your president for the next year and let's get out there and have fun wheeling!!

Cliff

From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Mark Werkmeister

Hello my friends and club members,

This is my last update for a while as Mr. Wolf has graciously stepped forward to take the role as DEA. I appreciate him doing so and hope that you do to!

Never before in the history of our club have we had so many important processes going on with the land management agencies. The outcome of these changes will affect our four wheeling opportunities for years to come, maybe forever. On the other hand, never before have we had better tools and capabilities in our hands to truly make a difference. And never before have we been so involved in ensuring that we have places to drive in the future. Here is the current list of projects and their status:

Cibola National Forest –

- Mountainair Ranger District – The Draft EA has been issued, we provided our comments, and we are waiting for the Decision Notice and Appeal period.
- Mt. Taylor Ranger District – The Draft EA has finally been issued. Substantive comments on the Draft EA are due September 14th.
- Magdalena Ranger District – The Proposed Action has been released. This starts the NEPA process with the official Scoping Period. By the time you read this, the Scoping Period will be closed (August 24th). The Forest Service will then move into their analysis phase and release the Draft EA with the Alternatives sometime later this year.

Carson National Forest –

- Jicarilla Ranger District – The Decision Notice has been released (published on August 19th) and the 45 day Appeal Period has started. All appeals must be submitted by October 4th.
- West Side Districts (Tres Piedras, El Rito, Canjilon) – The Draft EA was released and the comment period has closed. We are waiting for a Decision Notice.
- Questa District – The Draft EA has not yet been released.

Santa Fe National Forest –

- The BIG one for the club. The Draft EIS has been released and substantive comments on its contents are due by September 30th.

The Gila National Forest –

- We are still waiting for the Draft EIS to be released.

Taos BLM –

- The draft EIS for their Resource Management Plan revision has been released and substantive comments are due by September 9th.

Wow! It kind of makes your head spin, doesn't it? Unfortunately, there are a lot of things in the above documents that would stop our wheels turning forever. You can make a difference, let's get after it.

Jemez Run

By Jeff Boggs



The NM4Wheelers had a club trail run on Saturday, August 21st. We started gathering up at the gas station at the corner of Hwy 550 and Hwy 528 at 8:00 AM. The sun was up and one by one, 4x4's started driving into the parking area. By 8:30 we had 31 vehicles. WOW! Members just barely outnumbered guests.

We had sign up, drivers meeting, and away the caravan went, at a nice slow pace, all the way to the Walatowa gas station on Hwy 4, in the Jemez Mountains. Air down, gas up, disconnect, and a quick meeting of the minds determined that with such a long "train", we should divide up the

group into two. I led the first group, with Rance as tailgunner, and Jared leading the second group and Wolfie was the final tail gunner.

We were able to keep the group close most of the day, thanks to CB talk. The trip was up Paliza Canyon that begins at the Paliza Campground, north of Ponderosa, NM. This is a narrow road with rocks, and trees close to windows, so drivers had to pay attention. We had one breakdown in Paliza. Tommy had a beautifully restored International Scout that he brought on the run, but the fuel pump gave out. Unable to continue, his Dad had to strap up the silent Scout and with his Jeep, they turned around and headed back to town. Hope they made it OK. Tommy, if you read this, let us know how it went.



We stopped in an open meadow in the canyon for lunch, at 12:00 noon. It was really green in the entire canyon. After lunch, several people took a short cut back to town, because of work considerations later that day. We are now 26 strong and headed up the trail. Through a gate and hang a left, we then headed onto a very narrow road. This old forest road has no number designation that I can find, but a guy on an ATV once told me it is called Water Canyon. On the pre-run trip through here two weeks ago, I brought my chain saw and needed it to clear a big fur tree off this road. I did not bring it on the club run because, what could happen in the forest in just two weeks time. I have been too

optimistic before and I will be again. Anyway, I came up to forty foot of aspen tree, in a near horizontal position, right across the road, with no way around. The caravan came to a stop and out came the opinions, but no chain saws. After a few moments the best idea seemed to have me drive over the lowest part of the tree (Is a tree still a tree if it has fallen down, or is it a log?). To the right was a steep drop off and to the left too much "air log". Pushing another helper log in place, over I went to the other side. Mark Woolfson said I barely kept my front passenger tire from going over the side. I wheeled around and out came the winch and strap, and in about 15 minutes the road was open again. The only damage was a rat's nest of cable in my winch. I will pull that out tomorrow and try to wind it up all pretty again. Am I being too optimistic again?

Onward through to the summit, quickly named "Black Cow Pass", and down into the greenest part of the Jemez Mountains that I have ever seen. Ferns, moss, and mushrooms surrounding nice flowing spring were all around us. During a 10-100 stop, I asked Kim how she was doing in her stock TJ that she had bought only two weeks ago. She said that she had four wheeled quite a few years ago, but she was scared several times today, hearing a scraping sound here and there. The smaller the tires, the bigger the rocks! But several people who had seen her in action all day long were very impressed with her driving ability. She said all the positive encouragement from everybody really made her feel good. We finished Water Canyon, but it was already after 3:00, so we skipped going up to the Cerro Palado Lookout Tower and headed back to FR 10. Going south from there takes us back to Paliza Campground, where we had

started that morning. From there, some went back to Walatowa to air up and chat about the day, others headed on home.

All in all, the day went real well, considering the large number of vehicles that were on a tight, rocky, slow trail. As always, the main reason things went well is that the members of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers worked together to have a great day out 4-wheeling and enjoying our National Forests. And we had a great group of guests that "went with the flow". We hope all these Forest Roads stay open for motorized recreation. The comment period for you to write the Santa Fe National Forest is only a few more weeks. Please visit the NMOHVA web site at www.nmohva.org to find out more information on how you can make a difference. On some of the



Alternatives that the Forest Service is considering, Paliza Canyon would be closed to any motorized travel. We did absolutely no damage with 30 plus 4x4s, by staying on the trails, picking up litter, and practicing common sense driving techniques. And besides only seeing two ATVs, we were the only ones in that area all day, on a Saturday, in the summer!! This area is not overused. Members, please send your pictures to our Picasa web site, open a folder or add to one already open, under Paliza Canyon Run, 8-21-2010. Glad so many people made the run. See you on the Trail!!

Gila Trekking Trip – September 22 - 26, 2010

By Pat Brady

Hi Everyone,

I thought I would take a few minutes to let all those that are going on the Gila backcountry trip what's going on and the approximate trip itinerary. Right now the trip plan is to leave on September 22nd from the Belen Wal-Mart at 9:00 AM. The trip will finish up on September 26th somewhere in the Blue Range Primitive Area or the Apache – Sitgreaves National Forest. This trip will be slow and easygoing ... if you are a type "A" personality, this trip is not for you.

Wednesday: From Belen we will head to Magdalena to top off the gas tanks. We'll head west on Hwy 60 and turn off south on 168 heading towards Mount Withington. Somewhere between Mount Withington and Grassy Lookout, we'll find camp for the first night. I know that this seems like a short first day, but I want to set the "tone" for the rest of the trip, break camp at 9ish and make camp at 4ish. Sights see, take pictures --- RELAX dang-it.

Thursday: The next day will be a bit longer. After we break camp we'll head down Hudson Canyon out to State Rd. 52, then to State Rd. 163 heading for Beaverhead where we'll find little canyon. I have not driven completely through yet, but this canyon has near vertical walls of basalt with some areas never seeing the sunlight. After that we'll head west on FS 141 / State Rd. 59 to FS 142. Somewhere along, we'll find camp or we might stay in the area of Snow Lake. This lake is right on the northern edge of the Gila wilderness. This is one of the most remote, drive-able places in the Gila. There are fish stocked here, if you need to drown a worm or two. You will not see any city lights --- not even the glow. I hope the skies are clear that night as you will see so many stars.

Friday: This will be a mixture day – dirt roads – Alma – gas – pavement – dirt roads. We'll continue along FS 28 / State Rd. 159 to Alma. Get some gas, head north along State Rd. 180, turn off on to FS 232 and head towards the Blue River. Most of the route will be along the northern edge of the Blue Range Wilderness. It has been a long time since I was down along the Blue. What this means is we will need to be flexible when it comes to finding a camp site. We will be in the heart of the Blue Range Primitive Area. This is a very remote area. Again you will not see the glow of the city lights. Also note this is part of the Lobo reintroduction area. You should plan on keeping a clean camp.

Saturday: This will be a mixture day also with us backtracking along FS 281 heading for Alpine, Arizona. We can gas up for the drive home on Sunday at Alpine. Out of Alpine we'll head for one of my favorite camping spots, it is a small ridge about 8500' just east of Escudilla Peak. I have taken great photos looking west as the sun sets and east at the sunrise. There are some great views of the Apache – Sitgreaves National Forest to the west and east. The elk will still be in the rut ... so maybe we'll call some lovesick bull into camp that night.

Sunday: Break camp about 9ish to head out through Spur Lake basin and Bill Knight gap north to US 60. From here it will be paved road all the way back. I normally take NM 36 / 117 from Quemado; this will take us across the North Plains back to I-40 and Albuquerque. The trip from camp is about 5 hours. This will leave lots of time to unpack and reflect on the trip.

Bottom line: This trip is highly flexible for you. If you see a road you want to take—we can, we'll just adjust the time for camp to make up for it. If the trip is too slow for you and you just can't stand it anymore, there are lots of roads that you can take to get back to the “rat race” anywhere along the way. There are not any iconic views of big holes in the ground, no towering mountains, no raging rivers, just wide open spaces with lots of trees and great camping and no city lights. The last things you need to know are you must be self-sufficient. There is not any gas from Magdalene to Alma. There is limited to NO cell service for the entire trip. Water --- bring your own. We may be able to get some at Alma ... I don't know, I have never tried. Please send me an email message confirming your wish to go. When I return from my elk hunt, I will contact everyone. If you have any more questions, email me at pbrady4x4@hotmail.com. Thanks.

Pat

America's Great Outdoors Initiative

By Del Albright

America's Great Outdoors Initiative (AGO) by President Obama and his Administration has all the makings of severely needing OHV input. You can make a difference, and get your ideas out there for more pro-OHV access and opportunities by visiting this site and giving your input. Please jump in with your thoughts on saving our trails, giving OHV more access, providing more motorized opportunities and whatever else is important to you. Speak your piece at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf>

Thanks for getting involved in this critical issue for a motorized access future.

 **Del Albright**

Ambassador, [BlueRibbon Coalition](#)
[SaveMyTrails.com](#) for simple land use help



For Sale



Jeep YJ Axles: I have the stock axles from my '95 YJ for sale, both front and rear (Dana 35 and Dana 30). Four axle shafts total, for sale as a set or separately. Could make good spares. Willing to consider any offers. Also a used Detroit TrueTrac locker for a Dana 30 for \$200. Call Paul Caskey at 505-796-4907.

CB Radio Antenna Mount: Fire Stick antenna, 4 foot, black; and Teraflex antenna mount, fits under right side taillight, TJ. \$20 for both. Call Dixon Patrick at 505-401-0344.

Dana 44 Powertrax No-Slip locker with a carrier. Made for 3.92:1 gears and lower, \$250. Call Mark Wolf at 505-856-8539.

For more stuff for sale, please visit our web site at www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm

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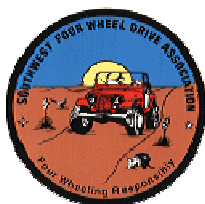
Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Sep 4	Brazo Canyon Jeep Touring Area	Call Jeff Boggs	505-867-5848
Sep 11	Club Meeting at the Lavy's	Call Jason or Sara	505-710-4928
Sep 22-26	Gila Trekking Trip	Call Pat Brady	505-898-6449
Oct 2	Caballo Trip	Call Mark Wolf	505-856-8539

NM4W Officers

<p>President Cliff Meier 281-3704 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Dixon Patrick 271-9133 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Jeanne Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Mike Coe 896-9581 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Mark Woolfson 294-2753 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
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Trail Tales
31 La Mirada
Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



October 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From September 11, 2010
by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held at the home of Jason and Sara Lavy on September 11th at 5:00 pm. Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Guests: Jason and Sara Lavy, Mark Mullin, Renee Mekuold.

Members Present: Paul Ayscue, Tracy and Cheryl Bakewell, Paul and Eveliina Baca, Glenn and Jan Bontly, Paul Caskey, Mike and Kristy Coe, Leon and Marcia Duggar, Keith and Linda Jurey, Ed and Lynn Kausche, Tony Louderbough, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Bob Provance, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Justin Simenson, Frank and Beth Whiston, Mark and Joan Wolf, Mark Woolfson & Faith Dwyer, and Tahoe Zahn.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: A motion was made (and passed) to accept the minutes as published in the September 2010 newsletter.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: Mike reported a bank balance of \$4,837. Checks in the amount of \$500 each had been sent to NMOHVA and SWFWDA Land Action Fund per motions made in June.

Vice President Report – Dixon Patrick: Dixon indicated he had no fines, but gave anyone a chance to report infractions. None were reported.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Wolf: Mountainair has released their Travel Management Plan. There is a 45 day appeal period from the date it is published in the Albuquerque Journal. This will be sometime around the 20th of October.

Santa Fe Ranger district will be accepting comments on their EA until September 30th. Mark indicated there was a lot of issues with the EIS and encouraged everyone to make comments.

Mount Taylor's comment period ends September 14th.

Trip Chairman's Report – Tony Louderbough:

Past Events:

August 15th Council of Car Clubs Picnic at Nambe Falls

August 21st Jemez Mtn run – Jeff Boggs led a run to Paliza Canyon. There were about 35 vehicles, so the run was broken into two groups, although they still ran together. Jared Mosher led the second group.

- Sept 3rd-6th Grants Labor Day. Jeff Boggs led a group Saturday to an area southeast of El Malpais. This was a new area for most participants and it was very scenic. Four participants stayed in Grants and several vehicles came over for the Day. Frank Whiston led 4 vehicles up Mt Taylor on Sunday. He is looking to do the same run October 9th for fall colors.
- Sept 4th-6th Mt Blanca – Keith Jurey reported that it was a good run and there were no major problems. Leon Duggar was the only other participant from NM4W and a couple of vehicles from the Denver Mile-Hi Jeep Club joined them.
- Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.
- Sept 18th-19th Ruidoso Ridge Runners is hosting a run Saturday in the Capitan area. They will be camping in a primitive area in Nogales canyon, but there are several commercial campgrounds in the area as well.
- Sept 22nd-26th Trekking in the Gila: Pat Brady is leading a trek in southern New Mexico (Gila). This is a multiple day trip beginning near Magdalena, crossing the top portion of the Gila and going into Arizona before returning to Albuquerque. This is tent camping. Contact Pat if you are interested.
- Sept 24th-26th NM Council of Car Clubs 32nd Annual Swap Meet in Las Lunas. NM4W receives a free space for promoting the club. The club also paid for a second spot if anyone wants to bring something to sell.
- Oct 1st-3rd Caballo Lake Campout & Trail Ride: Mark Wolf is leading a run Saturday Oct 2nd from the Caballo State Park Riverside camp.
- Oct 9th Frank G Whiston is planning a “fall colors” trip to Mt Taylor. It is a day trip and is limited to the 10 vehicles. Notify Frank ASAP if you want to attend.
- Oct/Nov??? Tony is trying to get some leaders for a trip to Gordy’s Hill with multiple levels of trails. Dates TBD.
- May 14th – 15th Farmington – Cliff Meier and Keith Jurey are working with Don Walker to get a trip to Farmington in the spring. Don is an associate member of the club and lives in Farmington. Again this may include different levels of difficulty.

Program Chairman’s Report – Mark Woolfson: Mark indicated he had an oil change gift certificate as well as some discounts from McKinney Motor Co for the 50/50 raffle. There were a number of other prizes as well. He encouraged everyone to support the local businesses that contribute to our organization. He also had club shirts available for sale.

Historian’s Report – Justin Simenson: Justin encouraged everyone to upload pictures to Picasa or give him a CD. Even if the photos are uploaded, he would like a CD for the files.

Webmaster & Editor’s Report – Glenn Bontly: Glenn asked the guests to submit an application if they want to join the club.

Old Business:

Liability Waiver - Jeanne Meier passed a modified copy of the waiver form used for the Summer Quarterly around for those present to review. The modification deleted references to SWFWDA and adds multiple lines for signatures. This could be used as a sign-in sheet for club runs. It was suggested that it be reviewed by a lawyer, and others felt that it wouldn't mean anything if someone wanted to sue. A suggestion was made to add something about abstaining from alcohol. It was decided while it might not avoid a lawsuit, it puts participants on notice and couldn't do any harm. A motion was made to have it added to the club web page so trail leaders could print it off. Motion passed.

Church Availability – Cliff said that the meeting room at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church was available for next year. The donation of \$200.00 was approved last month. Cliff asked Mike Coe to send them the check.

SWFWDA Land Action Fund – The registration form for the quarterly had a space for a donation to the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association (SWFWDA) Land Action Fund. The total for this was \$116.00. The question was whether this was factored into the \$500.00 donation approved last month. The \$500.00 was a donation and did not include the specific contributions. A motion was made to send that money on to SWFWDA. Motion passed.

4-Wheeler of the Year – Frank presented the 4-Wheeler of the Year award to Jeanne Meier in recognition for the work she did on the Summer Quarterly registration, among her other contributions to the club. Since Jeanne is a “rock”, the plaque was mounted on a rock from Creede, CO. Kimberly Whiston helped clean the rock selected.

New Business:

Hosts for Fall and Winter Meetings – Cliff Meier asked for volunteers to provide refreshments for the meetings being held at the Church.

- October - Jeff and Lauri Rector
- November - Tahoe Zahn
- January - Mark Woolfson and Faith Dwyer
- February - Tracy and Cheryl Bakewell
- March - Dixon and Zelda Patrick
- April - Cliff and Jeanne Meier

Host for Christmas Party – Cliff Meier said that a place and hosts were needed for the Christmas Party. One possibility for a place would be Mark's Casa Jeep Chrysler meeting room, offered for events at the July meeting. Cliff suggested people think about it till next month. Leon and Marcia Duggar volunteered to have it at their house.

Roadrunner Food Drive – Frank Whiston mentioned that the holiday food drive would be coming up in a couple of months. Last year it was held on Nov 21st. Different ideas were proposed to increase donations. Mark Woolfson suggested that people get raffle tickets for food. It was decided that 5 tickets would be given to those bringing food to the meeting.

Cliff Meier thanked Jason and Sara Lavy for hosting the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Raffle winners:

LED Flashlights	Marcia Duggar Ed Kausche Jeff Rector (won 3) Mark Wolf Bob Provance
Dash Accessory	Leon Duggar
McGuire Detailer	Ed Kausche
Tow Strap	Mark Mullin
Oil Change	Paul Ayscue
50/50 Raffle - \$35	Dixon Patrick



President's Report

by Cliff Meier

As the summer draws to a close, it's time to reflect on the club's summer activities. We have had very successful events exploring new locations, the Memorial Day run at Magdalena, the Malpais/Mt Taylor run, the Ruidoso run with the Ruidoso Ridge Runners, and the Mountainair Ranger District run, as well as old favorite runs at Mt Blanca and the Jemez. In addition to this summer's very well attended runs, we hosted a very successful SWFWDA Quarterly and were very active responding to the Forest Service's travel management plan documents. All of these activities would not have been possible without the active involvement of our dedicated club members. I'd like to thank everyone for their support.

As summer fades to fall, the club's activities won't fade! We move our monthly meetings back to the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. There are several activities and runs already planned or in the planning. Starting in late September will be the Gila Trek and NM Council of Car Clubs Annual Swap Meet. October offerings include the always-anticipated Caballo campout and trail ride (which includes the attention-getting Palomas Gap), and a fall colors run on Mt. Taylor. In planning is the annual Road Runner Food Bank Holiday food collection. Let's see if anyone can beat Tony's impressive donation in past years. In addition to these activities, Tony is working to set up a Gordy's Hill run in late October or November. The idea is to have two or three levels of runs (easy, moderate, and hard/extreme), something for everyone. Tony is recruiting trail leaders. All these events and the annual Christmas tree run makes the coming months really busy. See the events schedule on the website or the September meeting minutes for details on these events. If you have ideas for events, contact Tony (our Trip Chairman). I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at these events.

One last thing, if you haven't been to a meeting lately you have missed something. Our new Program Chairman (Mark Woolfson) has worked hard to add more stuff to the 50/50 raffle in addition to the cash.

NM4W Points and Trail Leader Winner

By Joan Wolf

Frank G. Whiston was a repeat winner from 2009 for points earned **and** trails led. He took home two \$100 gift certificates from Desert Rat. Frank earned points by leading day runs and overnights, attending meetings, and going on other folks' runs. He organized the Memorial Day weekend campout

at Magdalena and the food collection for the Holiday Roadrunner Food Bank. The food drive benefited needy families and showcased NM4W's community involvement. President Cliff Meier noted that Frank and the next two-highest points earners were within a few points of each other. So keep participating and maybe you could win those handy gift certificates next year.

4-Wheeler of the Year

By Joan Wolf



By member vote, Jeanne Meier was chosen 2010 4-Wheeler of the Year and is the first “passenger” to win the award. A rabid “rock hound”, her plaque was fittingly attached to a 3-lb granite rock from Creede, Colorado.

Jeanne was a huge contributor to the success of the 2010 SWFWDA Summer Quarterly hosted by NM4W in Creede in July. It was a feat to set up logistics in a small town 300 miles away, but Jeanne got things done. She handled pre- and on-site registrations, arriving at the Mineral County Fairgrounds quonset hut at 7:00 am and staying until dark, four days in a row. She took the inevitable cancellations, walk-ins, and last-minute changes in stride. The Quarterly was a fun, successful event, and Jeanne's great organizational skills reflected well on NM4W.

In addition, Jeanne served as club Secretary in 2009 and 2010, and has graciously accepted the position for 2011. Her accurate minutes are often referred to during meetings when our collective memories fail us on past discussions. For several years, Jeanne has helped Cliff with the Chile Challenge fundraising raffle at Las Cruces. It's a big effort to gather donations and track and sell tickets.

Jeanne often loads down the TJ with rock treasures for her yard. But this special plaque-adorned rock will get a special place **inside** the house. Congratulations, Jeanne, and thanks for your contributions to NM4W.

Past 4-Wheelers of the Year

2009 Cliff Meier
2008 Frank G. Whiston
2007 Mark Werkmeister
2006 Glenn Bontly
2005 Lauri and Jeff Rector
2004 Chuck Peeples
2003 Leon Duggar
2002 Glenn Bontly
2001 Pat Brady
2000 Mark Wolf
1999 Mark Wolf
1998 Bob Telepak
1997 Charlie Wilson
1996 Mark Werkmeister

Ruidoso Ridge Runners

By Mark Wolf



Last Spring I started talking to the Ruidoso Ridge Runners about running some trails down their way. Well, in August it finally came together and we actually set up a run. I sent out messages and had quite a few responses, but only three vehicles made the trip. They are the lucky ones for sure! Once again the NM4Ws was given uncompromising hospitality. The Ridge Runners were great! For those that missed out, too bad as you would have loved it!

Charlie Martinez, Past President (his wife Nikki is now Pres) of the Ruidoso Ridge Runners and I talked quite a bit about what and where. It came down to the weekend of September 18-19. Charlie thought at first that they may take us on a trip to a private ranch, but decided to go into the Lincoln National forest on one of their favorite trails. Sounded good to me! He also said there would be a potluck after the Saturday run in the USFS where they like to camp (Nogal Canyon). Charlie said there would be plenty of room to camp. However, it was down a dirt road with possible washouts, so I searched for an alternative in case some wouldn't want to travel down that road. I found a campground in Capitan, where we were to meet on Saturday morning anyway. Ed & Lynn Kausche and Cliff & Jeanne Meier also planned to stay at Mama Bear's RV Park. Later in the week Cliff & Jeanne decided to stay at the Nogal Canyon campsite with the RRRs. They were glad they did. The road wasn't bad and it's a beautiful, narrow canyon. They heard elk bugling at night.

The weather was nice and clear, and a light jacket was used by many on Saturday morning. We met at the Capitan gas station and headed out to Indian Divide on Highway 380 to take the Indian Divide Road which leads to USFR 84. Once on 84, we all stopped and aired down our tires. There were three NM4W vehicles and five RRR vehicles. The road headed north and was pretty uneventful at first. Then, the worst thing that can happen to us four wheelers happened!! Sometime during the previous month, the road had been graded!! Charlie and the others were surprised and dismayed! And one of their other favorite roads that led to an old lookout was closed all together. They were not happy.



After a scenic vista overlooking the Tularosa Valley and Carrizozo, we stopped for lunch in the shady forest. The temperature was perfect. We all had a great conversation and us NM4W types (along with past member Berrett Harrison) helped inform the RRRs about land use and the Travel Management Plan that went right by them at the speed of light. The graded road and closed spur showed the power of the TMP firsthand. The RRRs were very interested in the work of Nora and the

NMOHVA groups. After an hour, we loaded back up and headed out on FR 3907. Once we were past the graded section of roadway, the trail got to be a lot of fun. Everyone got air!



We traveled down to the end of the road and turned around in time to get back out of the forest for the meal. At 5:00 pm, we all gathered at the main camp spot in Nogal Canyon. The RRRs were loaded for bear! They had a smoker (Charlie's invention and man is he good at using it!), lots of food, and a campfire! We really enjoyed the evening conversation and food! All had a great time! Charlie and I agreed that this would be an awesome annual event. Sounds good to me as I have spent little time in that part of the state and really enjoyed the views,

scenery, and especially the people.

The Jeep That Saved the Day (and our lives)

By Del & Stacie Albright

The trucker behind us on I-80 near Truckee, CA, said he figured we were goners when the Jeep made the FIRST "360" at 55 MPH on the freeway with the jeep trailer coming disconnected (yet upright), held only by the safety chain. Then when he saw me steer out of that for the SECOND spin with the trailer headed sideways and still flopping on the chain, he knew we were going to be statistics. Yet we survived it; no one got hurt, and after a few repairs, we drove home the Jeep with the trailer. It's a story worth telling.

"Red" the Jeep stayed upright and we must have had the luck of the Big Four-Wheeler in the sky watching out for my driving. I'm still celebrating life even more today. But this story is also about the right gear; the right buildup on your rig; the right training; and the family we call four-wheelers, or better yet, off-road recreationists.

Stacie and I were returning from Sierra Trek by CA4WDC in freeway traffic on I-80 when we think the trailer ball bolt sheared off and let the trailer fly loose from our Jeep at freeway speed with a semi-truck behind us. Thankfully, the trucker was not tail-gating!

Stacie happened to notice the ball bouncing harmlessly off the freeway into the dirt lane right before I felt the trailer coming around to visit me in my driver's window. All hell broke loose after that.

The stink of rubber burning whiffed by my nose as the sound of metal crunching and banging together filled my ears. We could faintly hear brakes behind and alongside us locking up, but instantly the world started to rotate the wrong way and the only thing I could say was "hang on."

Stacie grabbed the passenger bar and leaned towards the middle as my hands bore down hard on the steering wheel, anticipating the drift and slip of the front tires as the Jeep got tossed by the weight of the speeding trailer. I've been through skid pan and safety clinic type off-road training, so I knew to stay

with it; turn into the skid; and use the brakes carefully so as to not slam the trailer into the Jeep too hard thus canceling my steering efforts.

Turning the Jeep in a drift towards the far right lane and dirt ditches alongside the freeway was my mission. Red was as stable as I could ever imagine, and I could feel the steering respond the way it should. But the weight of the flinging trailer and our freeway speed put us into the first “360” spin on pavement. Then we skidded into the dirt and began our second spin as gravel and dirt flung up from the BFGs, filling the cab with a dust ball that nearly stifled our breathing. Losing visibility, I had to rely on feel and instinct to make the last couple turns, fighting the skid and still turning into the drift trying to keep Red upright, rubber side down. It worked!

Thank goodness the Jeep is built right! The MFS custom steering and PSC hydraulic assist is one-ton stuff with CTM U-joints and BFG KM2’s clinging to the pavement. The Jeep’s suspension is Rubicon Express long arm heavy duty stuff with RE shocks as well. Hanson bumpers provided a lot of rear end strength, in spite of the trailer dragging by the safety chain. And I’m convinced the Raceline Monster Beadlocks kept us from popping a tire off the bead during the pavement burning spin.

The Altop family of wheelers (Gerald Sr. and Jr. and Ron) was coming down the highway, returning from Trek and immediately pulled over to help get the trailer upright. They just happened to have a spare tow bar and proceeded to strip off my hitch bent parts and replaced them with their stuff. They even had a spare ball hitch but it was too small, so we broke out the Premier Power Welder and they put a blob of weld inside the hitch to make it fit and viola, we were on our way within about 45 minutes.

The Altop’s (who are members of the Sacramento Jeepers of the California Association of 4Wheel Drive Clubs) even took the time to pull over with us at the next freeway exit to check if everything was working okay with the “trail fix” that they did. I gotta say that the off-road community is really a great network of people that go over and beyond the call of duty to help a friend or acquaintance in need. Thanks again to all that stopped to help and make sure that we were okay.

Here are the lessons that were ingrained in my brain from this event. I don’t pass these along lightly.

Maintenance and Checking Your Gear:

Although I had tightened everything with a pipe wrench after coming off the dirt, that didn’t prevent an old worn bolt from shearing off. I recommend you always double check gear and anything that can kill you like trailers, brakes, tires, steering parts. And did you know that trailer balls have torque specifications. Check this out: <http://www.hitchinfo.com/index.cfm?event=faq&topic=223&question=1752>



Training and Driving Skills: I’ve taken my fair share of driving training, including skid pan driving, as well as off-road safety clinics. I can recommend that you consider something like Badlands Off-Road Adventures and 4WD training (<http://www.4x4training.com/>), and the safety clinics put on by state associations like the California Association of 4Wheel Drive Clubs (<http://www.cal4wheel.com>).

Off-Road Family: Never take it for granted how special off-roaders are to each other. We are a family and I've seen it over and over. This episode was a clear reminder of a lot of things, and makes a person think about things like luck, life, and yea, divine assistance, as there were a lot of variables in this incident that could have changed a lot of lives. The tow ball bounced down the freeway, harmlessly landing off to the side rather than becoming a hand-grenade through someone's windshield; the trailer could have busted out into traffic; the jeep could have flipped, rolled and bounced several times; and the trucker could have slammed into us sideways after we quit spinning; etc.

But none of that happened. Whew... so cheers everyone! Here's to another day of being a part of the off-road family.

 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: Input for the Trail Tales is *normally* due to the Editor not later than the **25th of each month**, with publication around the 1st of each month. When circumstances dictate that the club meeting be later in the month, the Editor will extend the submission due date via e-mail notification. Submissions can be sent to TrailTales@nm4w.org, or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

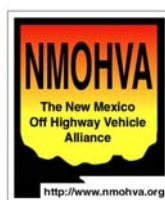
Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Oct 1 – 3	Caballo Trip	Call Mark Wolf	505-856-8539
Oct 9	Fall Colors Run	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541
Oct 14	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
Nov 11	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704

NM4W Officers

<p>President Cliff Meier 281-3704 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Dixon Patrick 271-9133 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Jeanne Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Mike Coe 896-9581 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Mark Woolfson 294-2753 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Tony Louderbough 232-0345 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Wolf 856-8539 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
31 La Mirada
Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



November 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From October 14, 2010

by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church on October 14th. Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Guests: Jason Lavy, Mark Mullin, Nicholas Frasch, Jesse Michaud, Dick and Sarah.

Members Present: Tracy and Cheryl Bakewell, Glenn and Jan Bontly, Pat and Sue Brady, Keith Chapin, Rance Cochrane, Mike Coe, Leon Duggar, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Keith and Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Tony Louderbough, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Dixon and Zeldia Patrick, Bob and Carol Provance, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Carlos Tanner, Paul and Mary Thompson, Frank G and Beth Whiston, Mark and Joan Wolf, and Mark Woolfson.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the October newsletter. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: Mike reported a bank balance of \$4,252.84. The Blue Ribbon Coalition submitted a bill for dues in the amount of \$100.00. This was paid.

Vice President Report – Dixon Patrick: Dixon indicated he had some fines to impose. Bob and Carol Provance were fined for a broken front drive shaft on the Gila trip. They had another fine on the Mt Taylor run for taking a wrong turn causing those behind them to follow.

Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Wolf: NMOHVA reports that a bill is in the works to combine all the outstanding Wilderness bills currently in Congress into a single bill and get it passed this year. He encouraged everyone to let your representatives know that you oppose this bill.

Las Cruces BLM has put out their proposals for the Trackway monument. This includes shutting down three trails. One alternative would eliminate all motorized travel. Comment period ends October 15th.

Santa Fe Ranger district comment period for their EIS ended September 30th. Mark indicated there was a lot of issues with the EIS and thanked those that made comments.

Mark encouraged everyone to visit Gordy Hill to show support for the area. Mike Bilbao had worked to set this up but we have not used it much lately. The OHV portion has been approved but has not been implemented.

Trip Chairman's Report – Tony Louderbough:

Past Events:

Sept 18th-19th

Ruidoso: Three members of our club went on a run hosted by Ruidoso Ridge Runners. Camping was in a primitive area in Nogales canyon but two of our members stayed in a commercial campground in Capitan. On Saturday they did a run in the Capitan area followed by a cookout. Charlie Martinez cooked up the meat on a homemade smoker and they provided an exceptional meal. This included breakfast Saturday and Sunday.

Sept 22nd-26th

Trekking in the Gila: Pat Brady reported that 6 vehicles were signed up but one did not show up. Due to rain the plans on the first day changed and included a visit to the Chloride Museum. Just as the group stopped for the day, Bob Provance reported a strange noise coming from the Hummer. It was determined to be a problem in the front drive shaft. Cliff removed the drive shaft and Bob and Carol were able to get home. That left 4 vehicles. The second day was an exploration of a side canyon near Beaverhead and camp was east of Snow Lake. The next day was into the Blue Range stopping at the Blue Crossing campground. This was a find with only 4 sites but with lots of trees and rondos and even some pictographs. The last night was back in New Mexico in the Apache National Forest. Pat thought this should be a good run to repeat in the next couple of years.

Oct 1st-3rd

Caballo Lake Campout & Trail Ride: Mark Wolf reported that there were 7 member vehicles from our club and 6 vehicles from the Ruidoso Ridge Runners. One of the Ruidoso group broke so it was a long day. There had been a lot of water which made this run particularly difficult in certain spots. Overall everyone had a good time.

Oct 9th

Mount Taylor Fall Run: Frank G Whiston reported that a couple of vehicles from Jeeps West joined the run in addition to those from NM4W. A group of them missed a turn and were 'lost' for a period of time. Note the fines in the vice-presidents report.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

Gordy's Hill

Tony reported that runs may occur in December. He had tried to schedule something for October but could not get leaders.

Nov 20th

Annual Holiday Food Drive to support Roadrunner Food Bank. Watch the website for more details.

Dec 18th

Christmas Party at Marcia and Leon Duggars. The start time has not been set but will be probably be in the afternoon. Watch the web site for more details.

May 14th-15th

Farmington – Keith Jurey and Cliff Meier are working to get a trip to Farmington. This may include different levels of difficulty depending on response. Don Walker, an associate member of the club from Farmington and others from the area will be our trail leaders.

Program Chairman's Report – Mark Woolfson: Mark passed out a sample of a card that he and Faith had ordered. It featured information on the New Mexico 4-Wheelers and was designed to put under windshield wipers or to distribute to potential members. Mark said we could order them with a

place on the back to put the club member's name that distributed the card. After some discussion a motion was made to order 5000 with the spot for the sponsor on the back. The motion passed.

Per the discussion at the last meeting, anyone that brought donations for the food drive to the meeting will receive 5 free raffle tickets.

Mark indicated that he will need to order more merchandise soon. He is looking at other suppliers.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin was not present and there was no report.

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: Glenn reported that some of the guests had not filled out an online application. He asked those at the meeting that had not filled out an application to do so.

Old Business:

Liability Waiver - Jeanne Meier indicated she had received a copy of a waiver used by Hudson Valley 4 Wheelers which had been reviewed by attorneys. It and the copy of the waiver discussed at the September meeting had been passed around. Since everyone present had not had an opportunity to review it discussion was postponed till the next meeting.

Annual Food Drive – Frank G Whiston reported that the televised food drive for the Road Runner Food Bank would be held at ABQ Uptown on November 20th at 4:00 pm or at the end of the televised football game whichever was later. The participants will probably meet at Winrock prior to that and drive over. There were personal challenges to see who could bring the most. A motion was made for the club to make a \$200.00 donation. Motion Passed.

New Business:

SWFWDA Fall Quarterly Meeting – Bob Norton reported that the fall quarterly hosted by the Wichita 4x4 club was held Oct 1st thru 3rd in Disney, OK. The area was below the dam of a large bass lake and was actually very rocky. The election of officers included Jeanne Meier as Membership Secretary. Las Cruces Chile Challenge will include the Winter Meeting and Ozark 4WD will host the spring quarterly at an OHV Park. Watch the website, swfwda.org, for more details.

Cliff Meier thanked Jeff and Lauri Rector for providing the refreshments.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Hosts for Fall and Winter Meetings:

November	- Tahoe Zahn
January	- Faith Dwyer and Mark Woolfson
February	- Cheryl and Tracy Bakewell
March	- Zelda and Dixon Patrick
April	- Cliff and Jeanne Meier

Raffle:

\$25.00 Gift Certificate Desert Rat	Jeanne Meier
\$100.00 Gift Certificate TSM	Rance Cochrane
Jack Isolator	Carlos Tanner
Oil Change – McKinney Motor	Sue Brady
Detailer	Zelda Patrick

T-shirts

Sue Brady
Zelda Patrick
Linda Jurey
Keith Chapin

50/50 Raffle - \$45



President's Report

by Cliff Meier

We had a busy month with three runs and our first meeting at the church. All these events were very well attended, especially the meeting. Not to sit back, November will also be busy especially with the Thanksgiving holidays.

The primary event will be the Road Runner Food Bank's collection on November 20. This will be the third year the club has participated. We have donated a significant amount of nonperishable food items with each year exceeding the previous year. So far "Too Tall" Tony Louderbough with his roof rack that has been over stuffed with stuff has lead the way in amount of food donated by a single Jeep! It seems this year he will have completion! The gauntlet was thrown down by a 4 door JK owner at the meeting saying she would have more inside her Jeep than Tony would have on top! There is also a rumor another top-racked TJ will show up with a load. At the Christmas party the first annual President's Award will be presented to the winner.

On a more serious note, please stay or get involved in commenting on the various Forest Service documents and BLM travel management and BLM efforts that Mark Wolf brings to the club's attention. This is a critical time in keeping the trails open. As an example, much of the area that contains the well-known trails that are run during the Chile Challenge are included in an omnibus bill. This bill includes over 160 new wilderness areas, one of which includes the Chile Canyon area outside of Las Cruces. This bill and efforts by the BLM to close three of the trails in the Robledo Mountains would have a major impact on this major 4X4 event. Each year we hear that this year's Chile Challenge may be the last. This may become a reality if we all don't work to help support the Las Cruces 4 Wheel Drive Club's (LC4WDC) efforts to keep it open. One way you can help and have fun doing it is to attend the 2011 Chile Challenge, Feb 23-26. This really is a great event with trails for all levels, easy through crazy extreme, two dinners and a raffle on Saturday night. Last year's raffle had over \$11K worth of prizes. Watch LC4WDC's website for details on the event later in November/early December.

That's about all for now; see you at the November 11 meeting at the church.

Mt. Taylor Fall Colors Run

By Frank G. Whiston

Fall is my favorite time of year. With the onset of fall, I always look forward to the cooler temperatures, hot air balloons, and the autumn foliage. Labor Day weekend the Whistons did some exploring on Mt. Taylor with a few other club members and liked it so much, we made plans to return with hopes to see the Aspen trees change color. On Saturday October 9, 2010 a group met early in the morning to climb one of the tallest mountains in the western part of the state. Leaving Albuquerque, we had 11 vehicles including Ken Tinker, the Provances, the Holfielders, the Bakewells, the Ayscues, the Tanners, the

Patricks along with guests Nick and Sara Frasch and Jesse Michaud. At the trail head, the group met the Brownells and the Todts from Jeeps West out of Gallup NM bringing the total number of vehicles to 13.



The trail begins at an elevation of 6100 ft in Rinconada Canyon and quickly begins to climb the mesa to the east accessing the Cibola NF via FR 400. At one time, this road served as a major access road to the forest based on well graveled sections and a switchback complete with a guardrail. Today, the road has deteriorated such that 4WD is required to traverse the steep climb on the mesa top making it much more fun than the previous description. The road also follows a power line that leads to an electronic site that resides at about 9100 ft of elevation. At the electronic site, we turned west on FR 501 climbing to 9300 ft and following a ridge affording our first views of the yellow aspen trees and a panoramic view of the western part of the state. As we met FR193, we turned away from the ridge to have lunch near Miribel Spring. It is always important to make sure that the vehicle behind you sees you make a turn. Bob Provance overlooked this important detail and we lost

the back half of the group. Bob was sent to look for the lost vehicles and was promised that a fine will be levied at the next club meeting.

The air was crisp enough that we stayed in the sun during lunch rather than seeking shade. After lunch, we took a short trip continuing along FR 193, then turning north on an unmarked forest road where the aspen groves were thick and mostly golden yellow. This beautiful and rugged route serves as a connector to FR 453 that leads to the 11,036 ft La Mosca Lookout. As the group gathered at the summit and we were unloading, Nick and Sara came over to me and thanked me for bringing them to such a beautiful place. That was very nice to hear from guests that we had along. Being that it was a long trip, it is always reassuring to hear that everyone is having a good time. It was a very clear day and the views were far reaching in all directions. We had clear views of landmarks such as the Sandia Mountains, Sangre De Cristo Range, Redondo Peak, Cabezon, Cerro Alesna, Mt. Withington, and Ladron peak.



Our decent would continue on FR 453 to the north. Along this route, we saw a group of wild horses and continued views of golden aspen trees. Beth counted at least 10 horses. We then reached FR 451 that brought us back around to Lobo Canyon road leading to Grants NM. At the point where the pavement ends we stopped to air up and re-connect sway bars. It was about 4:45 pm when we reached this point, so I invited everyone to

join us at the Pizza Hut in Grants for dinner. Some folks had kids to get back to (some the 4-legged kind) and declined. Small town Pizza Huts are the best so the Patricks, Tanners, Ken Tinker, and the

Whistons enjoyed a nice dinner before filling our gas tanks and heading back to town. As we reached Albuquerque, the Balloon Fiesta fireworks show had just started. What a way to end the day!

Chevy and the Jeeps

By Jeff boggs



On Saturday, October 2, 2010, the New Mexico 4Wheeler's got together at the Caballo Lake State Park to do a 4WD trail run in the Caballo Mountains. Several members of the Ruidoso Ridge Runner's 4wd club drove over to go along as well. Wolfie was the Trail Leader for this run. His Jeepster added a nostalgic touch to the newer vehicles that were present.

Most folks camped out in the state park on Friday night, but Jared Mosher got up early, and drove down from Rio Rancho on Saturday morning. He really likes to 4Wheel and lack of sleep is no reason for him to miss an opportunity to put his Rubicon

into 4low. Oh yeah, he drove back to Rio Rancho that same evening to go to work.

Wolfie said we were to leave the parking lot at 8:30 am, and after a brief meeting, thirteen 4x4's left the parking lot and headed for the east side of the Rio Grande River. The Caballo Lake State Park is on the west side of the river, and the trail is on the east, with a semi-secret way to get there.

There were several different types of 4x4's on the run: TJ's, Grand Cherokee's, YJ's, JK's, a nicely lifted older Chevy K-5 Blazer, and a Jeepster. As we got closer to the mountain, we turned left and headed up and over a hill and into the first canyon. Once in the canyon, it was time for 4low. We came to the first cho



ice, either right for the bypass or left for a dry waterfall, with several good sized rocks to negotiate at the top. The Jeepster went up like a champ and, one by one, the Jeeps crawled up and over this 4 foot climb. Tony's Jeep slipped back down the waterfall, and his back tire pushed the nice "helper rock". This made for a bigger gap to the waterfall, but after several more trys, Tony got his TJ, with loaded luggage rack, up on top. A nice Clayton equipped Grand Cherokee, along with Jack and Kathy's Chevy made the climb look easy. Ed's tail gunner TJ rolled right up, also.





The Ruidoso group was lovin' this desert wheeling. They go to the Chile Challenge, so this is a lot like the canyons down there. This dry stream bed is the road for a while, so there were many two foot high boulders all over the trail. Approach and momentum was key. One of the boulders took advantage of a Dana 35, underneath Charlie's Cherokee. Charlie came all the way down from Ruidoso to have his Dana 35 spit out the left rear wheel after trying to get over a tough group of rocks. The caravan came to a stop. No replacement axle was available, so we all began rigging up a way to keep this wheel in place for the towing that needed to happen. With several straps holding a

High Lift jack pressing on the side of the left rear tire, Jared's Rubicon got the "OK" to move forward with the "strapped" up Cherokee in tow. Now this would be a difficult job on a flat dirt road, but we were in a dry arroyo with several tough obstacles right in front of this arrangement. I was ahead of Jared and Charlie, trying to find the easiest way through the rocky stream bed. Soon, Wolfie hollered for me to back up and strap to Jared's front bumper, as it would take two sets of wheels to get the wounded Cherokee thru this area. To make matters worse, the "jerry rigged" wheel holder was not running very smooth, even with a liberal coating of WD40. Up ahead the road was a steep, loose hill climb. So all three vehicles slowly began the spinning ascent to the top, but not without the broken wheel slipping out a few times. This caused us to stop, readjust the straps, and then spin and slowly bounce to the top.



Time for lunch. Not far from this spot there was a good dirt road coming into our route. So Charlie and one of his friends went back to camp to get his truck and trailer. They retrieved his Jeep and made it back to camp. Charlie will repair his ride and we will see him again out on the trail. He really appreciated the help.



The rest of the group was hurried along, up to the radio towers. Great views of the lake and valley! Wolfie knew how much time he would need to make up so the group could get back to camp before sundown, so he pushed us back down the mountain and on to the two track, headed north. This route took us back into a canyon/boulder field road, and we each found a way through. There are several old adobe and rock walls along this part.

We were told that we were now entering the Palomas Gap part of the trip. This road was built around 1900, as a toll road, to provide an "easy" route to get from western New Mexico, to the

eastern part of the state. All kinds of equipment, supplies, and people must have used this road. And what a road it was! Built on the side of a big gap between two mountains, this narrow road is not for the faint of heart. The passenger gets a great view of the bottom of a sandstone canyon, several hundred feet down, and the driver gets to drive as close to a rock wall as possible. Now Jeeps have just the right axle width to make this happen, but Jack's full size Chevy uses all of the little toll road. So much so, that not long after we got down on the "Flats", Jack had a flat. Seems he was hugging the wall so tight, that he picked up a sidewall puncture. The "Toll Road Gods" were kind, as the narrow toll road would not be where I would want to replace a flat on any vehicle. This fixed, the group got back down to the Rio Grande, and crossed at a shallow place. Back to camp and a pot luck dinner by 7:30pm.



Everybody had a great time on a challenging, scenic trail. We saw nobody else all day. Left nothing, not even tracks on this rocky route. Took only pictures and fun times with us. All agreed that both Clubs should do this trail at least annually. Fall and Spring are the best times, with cooler temps, although it was pretty warm that day. Wolfie did a great job leading the group of 4wheelers through this beautiful desert mountain area. 4x4's are a great way to see this rugged area.

Plan on doing this trip in 2011. I know someone will lead this next year. We sacrificed a Dana 35 to the Toll Road this year, and last year the group gave up rear axle shock mount and flipped a front shackle. Will we ever run the Toll Road for free? Show up and find out.

	For Sale	
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Cleaning my garage! Need to get rid of this stuff! This is a partial list of stuff that may be useful to someone. 5ea 15X8 Chrome modular wheels, 5 on 5 ½" wheel pattern, excellent shape - \$100; 2ea Rancho 5000 shocks, excellent, fit the front of a stock 93-98 Grand Cherokee - \$40 pair; Dana 44 for XJ, no brakes (backing plates only), 3.55 gears, - \$250; Powertrax no-slip locker for Dana 44 - \$250; Detroit Tru-Trac for Dana 44 FRONT end, fits 3.92 – 5.89 gears - \$350; Dana 44 from an early Wagoneer – with axles and brakes, 5 on 5 ½ pattern – FREE! Ford 9" truck housing and brakes, no pumpkin - \$50. One 235X75X15 BFG A/T, good shape - \$25. E-mail [Mark Wolf](mailto:Mark.Wolf) or call 505-856-8539.

Front Dana 30 from my 2002 TJ: Has 4:10 gears, an ARB locker, stock-spline superior cromoly axle shaft upgrades, and a Down East Offroad high steer kit (<http://downeastoffroad.com/MM/Dana30HighSteer.htm>). It is set up for a triangulated 4 link suspension but could easily be set back up for stock position upper control arms. I would also include the stock axle shafts as back-ups, upgraded brake calipers, rotors and pads. The whole thing has about 30,000 miles on it. Everything totaled out new would be over \$3600 but I would sell all together for \$1575 OBO. I also have 5 used, AR-136 5x4.5 with offroad tire back-spacing, aluminum alloy wheels with normal off-road-rash for \$150 for all five. I have a pair of Spidertrax 1.25" wheel spacers that convert 5x4.5 to 5x5.5 bolt pattern for \$75. E-mail [Joe Wilson](mailto:Joe.Wilson) or call 505-259-6252.

Jeep YJ Axles: I have the stock axles from my '95 YJ for sale, both front and rear (Dana 35 and Dana 30). Four axle shafts total, for sale as a set or separately. Could make good spares. Willing to consider any offers. Call Paul Caskey at 505-796-4907.

CB Radio Antenna Mount: Fire Stick antenna, 4 foot, black; and Teraflex antenna mount, fits under right side taillight, TJ. \$20 for both. E-mail [Dixon Patrick](mailto:DixonPatrick) or call 505-401-0344.

Rear Bumper for Jeep TJ. Wilderness brand -- see part # 34910 at http://www.wildernessracks.com/jeep_wild_bump.html. Good condition, all hardware included, \$150. Also **OE Rubicon Fender Flares** (slightly "pre-scuffed" at no extra charge :), \$60. E-mail [Paul Thompson](mailto:PaulThompson) or call 505-293-8390.

Please visit our web site at www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm

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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.

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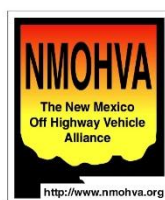
Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Oct 14	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
Nov 11	Club Meeting at the Church	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
Nov 20	Holiday Food Drive	Call Frank G. Whiston	505-292-1541
Dec 18	Christmas Party	Call Leon & Marcia Duggar	505-235-8988

NM4W Officers

<p>President Cliff Meier 281-3704 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Dixon Patrick 271-9133 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Jeanne Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Mike Coe 896-9581 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Mark Woolfson 294-2753 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Tony Louderbough 232-0345 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Wolf 856-8539 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
31 La Mirada
Belen, NM 87002





Trail Tales



December 1, 2010

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

From November 11, 2010
by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church on November 11th. Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Guests: Jason Lavy, Sally Phelps, and Mike Thorson.

Members Present: Paul Ayscue, Jeff Boggs, Pat Brady, Mike and Kristy Coe, Guy Conway, Keith and Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Tony Louderbough, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Bob and Carol Provance, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Phil Rodacy, Mike Sells, Justin Simenson, Frank G. and Beth Whiston, Mark and Joan Wolf, Mark Woolfson & Faith Dwyer, and Tahoe Zahn.

Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier: A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the November newsletter. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe: Mike reported a bank balance of \$3,861.46. Dues for Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association (SWFWDA) were paid for fiscal year 2010-2011. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed.

Vice President Report – Dixon Patrick: Dixon reviewed the points for the visitors. He asked for reports of infractions, but nothing was reported.

Director of Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Wolf: The Las Cruces BLM extended the comment period for the Trackways Monument to November 15th. Mark encouraged everyone to submit comments. The law that created the Monument allows for special use permits for OHVs. It is important that we try to keep some of the roads available.

Magdalena Ranger district has not released their EIS.

Santa Fe Ranger district comment period for their EIS ended September 30th. They are currently processing the comments.

Socorro BLM has released their final decision. According to Pat Brady, motorized travel is restricted to designated roads and trails, but no one has seen the map that indicates what those roads and trails are. It was suggested that we contact Mike Bilbo, but he is no longer there. Paul Ayscue's brother works there and he will find out who the current contact is.

Forest Service Region 3 rejected Mark Werkmeister's appeal on the Jicarilla Ranger District. It is expected that the appeal that Joanne Spivack filed on Mountainair will also be rejected since that is also Region 3.

Trip Chairman's Report – Tony Louderbough:

Past Events:

Halloween Mark Wolf did a run with the Ruidoso and Holloman clubs on BLM land. They will be running Gordy's Hill this week, but we don't have a contact for them.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

Snow Run A leader is needed for a snow run. The dates are dependent on the schedule and snow.

Nov 20th Annual Holiday Food Drive to support Roadrunner Food Bank.

Dec 4th Christmas Tree Run. There will be a Christmas Tree Run to the Jemez or the Pecos, depending on the availability of permits.

Dec 4th Twinkle lights parade. NMOHVA is trying to get participants for the Albuquerque annual twinkle lights parade. There must be at least 5 strings of lights on each vehicle. Lauri Rector said Albuquerque was planning on the parade participants paying a fee. Mark Wolf thought NMOHVA might pay that fee.

Dec 18th Christmas Party at Leon and Marcia Duggar's. The party will start at 4:00 pm. See web site for more details.

Jan 1st Gordy's Hill. Details forthcoming.

Feb 22nd-26th Chile Challenge – SWFWDA Winter Quarterly. Details forthcoming.

May 13th-15th Farmington – Keith Jurey and Cliff Meier are working to get a trip to Farmington. This may include different levels of difficulty depending on response. Don Walker (an associate member of the club from Farmington) and others from the area will be our trail leaders.

July 4th Colorado – Frank G. Whiston is planning a trip to Colorado, but has not selected the specific destination.

Program Chairman's Report – Mark Woolfson: New Mexico 4-Wheelers cards: Mark had the cards that were discussed at the October meeting. The price for adding a place on the back for someone to put their name was twice the cost of the one sided card. He is getting a stamp that can be used to stamp a line on the back. Cliff Meier will retain the cards in the 'president's brief case' so they are available at all the meetings. These cards have information on the club and can be passed out to potential members or placed under a windshield wiper.

Mark has priced the long sleeve shirts at \$14.00, sweat shirts for \$17.00, and hoodies for \$24.00.

Historian's Report – Justin Simenson: Justin encouraged everyone to upload pictures to the clubs Picasa site or send them to him via email or on CD.

Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly: There was no report.

Old Business:

Liability Waiver - Jeanne Meier had passed out copies of two liability waivers. The first was a modified version of the waiver that is part of the SWFWDA quarterly registration. The second was obtained from another club and had been reviewed by a couple of attorneys. After discussion of club liability and other issues related to what should be included, a motion was made to use the modified quarterly waiver. After more discussion, Guy Conway indicated he had copies of different waivers. Pat Brady made a motion to table the current motion until the officers could review different options. The issue will be addressed again at the January meeting.

Annual Food Drive – Frank G. Whiston reported that the televised food drive for the Road Runner Food Bank would be held at ABQ Uptown on November 20th, at 4:00 pm or at the end of the televised football game whichever was later. The participants will assemble on the west side of Garduno's at 3:30 and proceed to ABQ Uptown when the drive sponsors indicate they are ready for us. Frank said they would be going to Jason's Deli afterward and encouraged everyone to join them.

Christmas Party - Cliff reported that the Christmas party will be at Leon and Marcia Duggar's on December 18th. Leon was not present and Cliff did not have further details. A suggestion was made that the club would supply the meat as they had in the past. After discussion, a motion was made to allocate \$150.00 to purchase barbecue. The motion passed. Bob Provance volunteered to make arrangements for the meat. The party includes a gift exchange with a limit of \$10.00 and should be labeled for male or female. Lauri Rector indicated she would bring the numbers.

New Business:

New treasurer - Mike Coe indicated that he would be having some surgery in January that could incapacitate him for two to three months. He did not know if he should resign. Cliff Meier suggested that he could handle any banking that was necessary. Frank G. Whiston indicated that he was still on the bank account and could assume the responsibility in the short term.

Cliff Meier thanked Tahoe Zahn for hosting the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

Hosts for Fall and Winter Meetings:

January	- Mark Woolfson & Faith Dwyer
February	- Tracy and Cheryl Bakewell
March	- Dixon and Zelda Patrick
April	- Cliff and Jeanne Meier

Raffle:

\$25.00 Gift Certificate Desert Rat	Bob Provance
Jack Isolator	Jeff Boggs
Speaker Box	Frank G. Whiston
T-shirt	Jeff Rector
T-shirt	Tahoe Zahn
50/50 Raffle - \$32	Mike Sells



President's Report by Cliff Meier

We had a busy month with three runs and our first meeting at the church. All these events were very well attended, especially the meeting. Not to sit back, November will also be busy, especially with the Thanksgiving holidays.

The primary event will be the Road Runner Food Bank's Food Drive on November 20th. This will be the third year the club has participated. We have donated a significant amount of nonperishable food items, with each year exceeding the previous year. So far, "Too Tall" Tony Louderbough with his roof rack that has been over stuffed with stuff, has lead the way in amount of food donated by a single Jeep! It seems this year he will have completion! The gantlet was thrown down by a 4 door JK owner at the meeting saying she would have more inside her Jeep than Tony would have on top! There is also a rumor another top-racked TJ will show up with a load. At the Christmas party, the first annual President's Award will be presented to the winner.

On a more serious note, please stay or get involved in commenting on the various Forest Service documents, BLM travel management, and BLM efforts that Mark Wolf brings to the club's attention. This is a critical time in keeping the trails open. As an example, much of the area that contains the well-known trails that are run during the Chile Challenge are included in an omnibus bill supported by Martin Heinrich. This bill includes over 160 new wilderness areas, one of which includes the Chile Canyon area outside of Las Cruces. This bill and efforts by the BLM to close three of the trails in the Robledo Mountains would have a major impact on this major 4X4 event. Each year we hear that this year's Chile Challenge may be the last. This may become a reality if we all don't work to help support the Las Cruces 4 Wheel Drive Club's (LC4WDC) efforts to keep it open. One way you can help and have fun doing it is to attend the 2011 Chile Challenge, Feb 23-26, 2011. This is really a great event with trails for all levels (easy through crazy extreme), two dinners, and a raffle on Saturday night. Last year's raffle had over \$11K worth of prizes. Watch LC4WDC's website for details on the event later in November/early December.

Recommendation on Brake Parts

By Rich Hunt

(Rich posted the following to a forum asking for recommendations on brake parts. I received an e-mail with a suggestion that I include this in the Trail Tales. -ed.)

Original Post:

I need to buy new front rotors and pads for my 2005 Jeep Wrangler LJ Rubicon. I recently put Goodyear MTR 33"x11.5" tires on it and ever since then the brakes have felt weak and noisy. I had the rotors turned and the pads scuffed and that helped with the noise, but it just doesn't feel like it has good stopping response. The rotors have been turned a couple of times and are out of life. I figure my options range from NAPA OEM parts, to Power Slot rotors with Hawk pads. My questions are:

1. Do the higher end rotors and pads deliver better performance?
2. Do the higher end rotors and pads last as long as the OEM parts?

3. Is it worth spending the extra money to get the higher performance parts?

Thanks,

Rich

Follow-Up E-Mail:

I posted the above message to the group a while back and got some excellent recommendations that I thought would be useful to share with all. I think it would be great if we could all share our results of trying different parts or techniques as I am sure there are many people that are in similar situations and would find them interesting.

There were three solutions that I summarized from the responses I got from the group.

1. Install slotted rotors and higher performance brake pads, which should be more tolerant to things such as warping and minor brake fading. I think this is acceptable if running slightly larger tires such as 31"-33".
2. Install a larger disk brake setup in the front, such as that from Vanco (http://www.vancopbs.com/product_p/dkj1000.htm) for about \$1K to provide better stopping performance. I think this is good solution if you have the money and are running 33"-35" tires.
3. Get a custom brake setup from Harold's Off Again in Farmington. I think this is a complete re-engineering of the brake system and is only required if running much bigger tires. I would probably explore this if running 37" or larger tires

Option 1 was the easiest to try since I needed new pads and rotors anyway. I installed the Powerslot cryogenic rotors and Hawk green pads. The overall cost was about \$100 more than installing OEM parts of similar quality. I decided to use cryo rotors due to the fact that that jeep brakes are undersized for the application and the rotors would last longer through overheating situations.

After a few months of use, the results to this point have been mixed. I have seen noticeable improvement in slow speed stops which is about 95% of the braking situations around town. I didn't see much improvement in "emergency" stop situations though. When I have to hammer on the brakes, I definitely can't lock up the tires, I don't have anti-lock brakes, and I still get that helpless feeling like it's going to be a bad day. So, now I have just adjusted my driving habits to ensure I keep plenty of distance between myself and the car in front of me. In the future I may consider adding option 2 if I get tired of this emergency stop problem.

Any other ideas or insight would be greatly appreciated.

Rich

NM4W Holiday Food Drive 2010

By Frank G. Whiston

2010 marks our third year for the Annual NM4W Holiday Food Drive and it was the best year yet! Last year, Roadrunner Food Bank informed the club that we had donated ~800 lbs. of food, so I challenged the club to do better this year. Everyone who donated and participated in the drop-off at ABQ uptown really came through. It was awesome to see so many 4x4's loaded down with food donations. Generous members also added \$60 to the \$200 dollars donated from the club fund. Roadrunner claims that they can buy \$2,340 worth of food with our \$260 donation with bulk savings. That is an impressive amount of food! This year, I spoke to Steve Stucker and Marla Tellez on camera as the club made their way through the Live set dropping off non-perishable donations. Everyone got help unloading from other club members, Star Wars Storm Troopers, and news anchor Tom Joles (even though our club president was worried that he would mess up his hair). Afterwards, several of us met at Jason's Deli for dinner and camaraderie. Thanks to everyone who donated this year!





For Sale



Cleaning my garage! Need to get rid of this stuff! This is a partial list of stuff that may be useful to someone. 5ea 15X8 Chrome modular wheels, 5 on 5 ½” wheel pattern, excellent shape - \$100; 2ea Rancho 5000 shocks, excellent, fit the front of a stock 93-98 Grand Cherokee - \$40 pair; Dana 44 for XJ, no brakes (backing plates only), 3.55 gears, - \$250; Powertrax no-slip locker for Dana 44 - \$250; Detroit Tru-Trac for Dana 44 FRONT end, fits 3.92 – 5.89 gears - \$350; Dana 44 from an early Wagoneer – with axles and brakes, 5 on 5 ½ pattern – FREE! Ford 9” truck housing and brakes, no pumpkin - \$50. One 235X75X15 BFG A/T, good shape - \$25. E-mail [Mark Wolf](mailto:Mark.Wolf) or call 505-856-8539.

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<p>President Cliff Meier 281-3704 President@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Dixon Patrick 271-9133 Vice-president@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Jeanne Meier 281-3704 Secretary@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Mike Coe 896-9581 Treasurer@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Mark Woolfson 294-2753 Program-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Justin Simenson 299-6982 Historian@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Tony Louderbough 232-0345 Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Mark Wolf 856-8539 Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales
31 La Mirada
Belen, NM 87002

