



# Trail Tales



January 1, 2011

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From December 18, 2010

by Jeanne Meier



The meeting and Christmas party were held December 18<sup>th</sup> at the home of Phil and Ilene Rodacy when snow prevented it from being held at the home of Marcia and Leon Duggar. Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Guests:** Jack and Cathy Dickey.

**Members Present:** Pat and Sue Brady, Leon and Marcia Duggar, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Bob and Carol Provance, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Phil and Ilene Rodacy, Chris Sears, Justin and Rebecca Simenson, Glenn and Rebagayle Vialpando, Frank G. and Beth Whiston, Mark and Joanne Werkmeister, and Mark and Joan Wolf.

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

**Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe:** Mike was not present and there was no treasurer's report.

**Vice President Report – Dixon Patrick:** Dixon was not present, but he had sent a copy of the year-to-date points. During the trip report on the Christmas tree run, Tony Louderbough was fined for 2 U-turns. Tony was not present, so fines will be assessed in January.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Wolf:** There has not been any activity on travel management plans since the November report. Gila EIS is due to be released.

**Mountainair Ranger District:** Cliff asked Joanne Werkmeister to discuss the Mountainair EA. This was just overturned by USFS District 3 as a result of an appeal submitted by Joanne. NM4W members had submitted several comments during the EIS process which were ignored in the final EA. Joanne submitted an appeal challenging the process used and the plan was overturned. Mountainair must start the process over.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Tony Louderbough:** Tony was not present, but reports were made by others.

### Past Events:

Nov 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Food Drive to support Roadrunner Food Bank. Frank G. Whiston reported that there were 12 vehicles that participated in the event. The food was weighed before being loaded into the truck and he should receive a report of how many pounds were donated.

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas tree run. Justin reported that there were 9 vehicles on the tree run. Tony Louderbough made 2 U-turns which results in 2 fines. They went through the Kilman tunnels, then a ways on 144 before finding a side canyon that overlooked Valles de Calderas. Everyone was able to find a suitable tree.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

Dec 31<sup>st</sup>-Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> Gordy's Hill. There will be runs Friday through Sunday of varying difficulties. The runs will leave from the camping area at 9:30 am. Directions are available on the website. A pot-luck will be held Saturday night, which includes the left over barbeque from the Christmas party. The Ruidoso and Alamogordo clubs will be there at the same time.

Jan 13<sup>th</sup> January Club Meeting at Heights Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm.

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> Chile Challenge – SWFWDA Winter Quarterly. Registration forms and information is now available at [www.chilechallenge.org](http://www.chilechallenge.org). They will be accepted by mail until January 28<sup>th</sup>, then registration must be done on-site during the event. Cliff Meier has raffle tickets.

**Program Chairman's Report – Mark Woolfson:** Mark was not present.

**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. He had posted some pictures from the Roadrunner Food Drive and Christmas Tree run on the Web and would be adding them to Picasa.

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

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

International Car Show - Cliff Meier indicated he had received an email from Leo Bartolucci, board member of Sandia Motorsports Park, concerning a car show to be held in October 2011. He wanted to know if NM4W was interested in participating. Cliff had replied that we might have up to 10 vehicles depending on more detail.

New Members – Cliff Meier indicated that Jack and Cathy Dickey were present and had enough points for membership. A motion was made to accept them as new members, motion passed. In addition, we had an application and fees for associate membership for Tom and Joanne O'Keefe.

Cliff Meier thanked both Phil and Ilene Rodacy, and Leon and Marcia Duggar for the work they had done for the Christmas party and meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

Hosts for Winter/Spring Meetings:

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



## **President's Report**

by Cliff Meier

As I am writing, this Christmas is quickly approaching, only 4 days away! I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The club's Christmas party was a great success. Due to the 18" plus snow storm at the Duggars home in the East Mountains, the party was moved to the Rodacys in Albuquerque. As always, the food was outstanding and the gift exchange was fun. A big round of applause and thanks to both the Duggars and Rodacys for making the party a success.

An example of the off-road community's success in becoming involved with the US Forest Service Travel Management planning process, close to home is the success of the NMOHVA appeals submitted by Mark Werkmeister and Joanne Spivack against the Mountainair Ranger District's Travel Management decision. The appeal was based on the Forest Service not following their own rules in relation to the comments submitted by the off-road community. The Mountainair Ranger District's Travel Management decision has been sent back for a 'do-over'. NMOHVA had appealed the District's Travel Management Plan Environmental Assessment. The Forest Service Region 3 Appeal Officer agreed with the appeal and reversed the decision by the Forest Supervisor. The Appeal Decision reads (in part) "After a detailed review of the record and the Appeal Reviewing Officer's recommendation, I reverse the Responsible Official's decision on the Travel Management on the Mountainair Ranger District decision." The Mountainair Ranger District has been directed to complete a new analysis that follows direction for Management Indicator Species analysis of effects on habitat and populations. "We found serious problems with the way the Forest Service completed their analysis. They didn't follow the policies and the Region 3 office agreed with us," said Joanne Spivack, NMOHVA Special Projects Coordinator. "We just want to make sure the Forest Service follows the rules." Our comments can and do make a difference!

Just a reminder, the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Chile Challenge is rapidly approaching Feb 23-26 in Las Cruces. In addition to folks who have attended past events, I encourage anyone who hasn't gone to a Chile Challenge to try to make this one. It is one of the premier 4X4 events in the southwest and is in real danger of being shut down by the environmentalists and anti-4X4 factions in Washington. Each year could be the last. If you are interested, go to the Chile Challenge website, [www.chilechallenge.org](http://www.chilechallenge.org).

## **We Won?!? What Does That Mean?**

By Mark Werkmeister

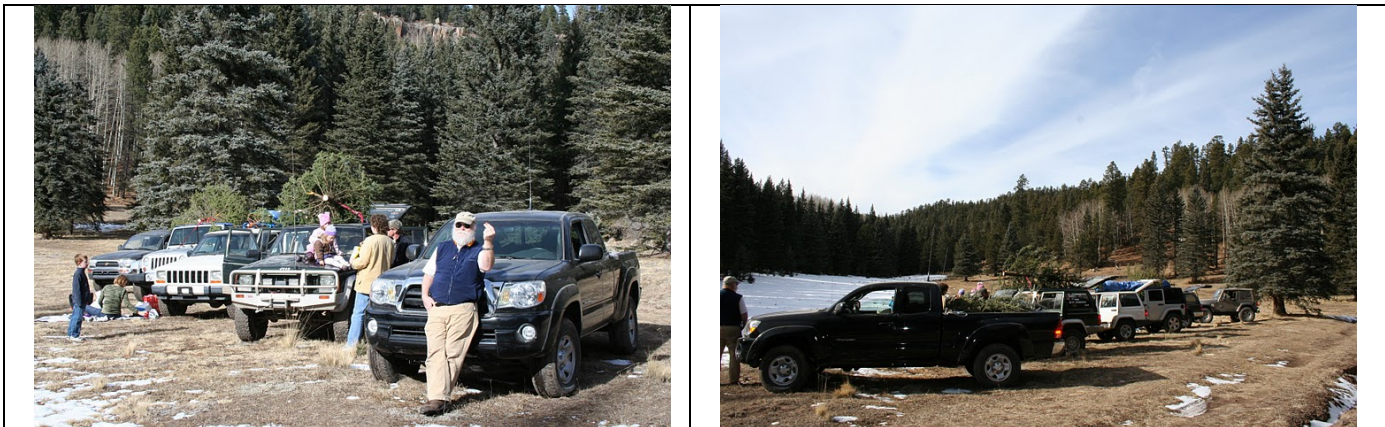
Your New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance (NMOHVA) won their appeal of the recent Travel Management Plan decision for the Mountainair Ranger District of Cibola National Forest. The notice sent by the Southwestern Region office on December 6<sup>th</sup> announced the reversal of the decision of the Mountainair Ranger District Travel Management Environmental Assessment (EA). The Cibola's decision was thrown out because the Region 3 office agreed with NMOHVA that the EA didn't disclose effects on forest-wide trends for habitats and populations in a consistent manner. The Forest was also found to have failed to disclose the basis for the conclusions on the water and soils section of the Assessment. Region 3 directed the Cibola to complete a new analysis that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable requirements.

The New Mexico 4 Wheelers played a critical part in this important victory. NMOHVA and NM4W have been directly involved with Cibola's Travel Management planning process across all of their Ranger Districts to ensure appropriate motorized access is preserved and promoted. Many of us wrote comments on the draft EA. When the decision ignored these comments, we exercised our right to appeal. NM4W members (Mark and Joanne) authored the successful appeal for NMOHVA.

So what does all this mean? First of all, it means the Cibola National Forest has to complete a new EA for the Mountainair Ranger District. Once the new EA is released to the public, the public will, once again, have the opportunity to review the document and submit comments. The Forest will again analyze the comments and make their decision. If our next review shows that they still haven't followed the rules in making the decision, we can appeal the decision again. While all that plays out, the Forest should remain open to motorized use as it has been in the past.

More importantly, the win on the appeal shows all of us that we can hold the Forest Service accountable for not following the rules. When they use bad science, and play fast and loose with the facts, we can use NEPA and the Forest Service regulations to successfully challenge their decisions. How the Forest completes these analyses is important because the decisions are supposed to be based on clear and accurate information. We will continue to provide input and monitor all these decisions. We want make sure the Cibola and the other Forest's in New Mexico are following all the rules.

### Pics from the Christmas Tree Run



### 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 1/2" 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 1/2 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.



**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.

Please visit our web site at [www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm)

### Club Notes

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

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

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

**Submission Due Date:** Input for the Trail Tales is *normally* due to the Editor not later than the **25<sup>th</sup> of each month**, with publication around the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:TrailTales@nm4w.org), or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

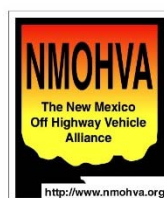
### Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Dec 31 – Jan 2	Rockin' New Years at Gordy's Hill	Call Mark Wolf	505-856-8539
Jan 13	Club Meeting	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
Feb 10	Club Meeting	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
Feb 23 – 26	Chile Challenge	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
Mar 10	Club Meeting	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704

## NM4W Officers

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

Trail Tales  
31 La Mirada  
Belen, NM 87002





# Trail Tales



February 1, 2011

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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## Meeting Minutes

From January 13, 2011  
by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held January 13<sup>th</sup> at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Guests:** Ben Dackiewicz, Preston Garner, Mike Thorson, Jason Lavy, Garry Marions.

**Members Present:** Cody Bakewell, Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Glenn and Jan Bontly, Pat and Sue Brady, Rance Cochran, Mike and Kristy Coe, Leon Duggar, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Robert Holhfelder, Keith and Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Tony Louderbough, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Dixon and Zeldia Patrick, Bob and Carol Provance, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Phil and Ilene Rodacy, Chris Sears, Bob Telepak, Paul Thompson, Frank G. Whiston, Mark Wolf, and Mark Woolfson & Faith Dwyer.

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

**Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe:** Mike reported there was about \$3,500.00, but did not have an exact number. Mike had just gotten things back from Frank, who had been doing the treasurer's job while Mike recovered from surgery, and some other items.

**Vice President Report – Dixon Patrick:** Dixon reported that there was an outstanding fine. It was confirmed that Tony Louderbough owed fifty cents from the Christmas Tree run for 2 U-turns. Tony indicated that he only remembered one U-turn, but paid up.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Wolf:** Martin Heinrich had been one of the sponsors of an Omnibus Wilderness bill following the election. This combined all the individual wilderness bills into one bill, regardless of whether studies had been completed. This bill did not pass.

**Mountainair Ranger District:** As reported last month, an appeal of the Mountainair District travel management plan was upheld by USFS District 3. Joanne Werkmeister had filed the appeal. As a result, Mountainair has to start the process over.

In Utah, a lawsuit by environmentalist against Kane County was dismissed when the court ruled the groups did not have any standing. To avoid closures, Kane County had designated all roads as county roads and had begun maintaining them.

**Carson National Forest:** The appeal period for the Carson National Forest travel plan ends January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Gila Ranger District:** The draft EA has been posted and the comment period ends March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Cibola Magdalena District, Mt Taylor District, and Santa Fe Ranger District travel plans are all in process.

Espanola District: There will be a meeting in Santa Fe on January 28th concerning plans for the Caja Del Rio area northwest of Santa Fe. This area includes three trails we run. Miche Bove' will attend the meeting from our club, but anyone else that can attend is encouraged to attend.

Gordy's Hill: The Socorro district has amended their plan to include Gordy's Hill. Until everything is finalized, members are encouraged to travel only on existing roads.

Wild Lands Proposal by the Interior Department: Bob Telepak announced that there will be a meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah tomorrow, January 14, 2011 with Robert Abbey, Director of the BLM. This meeting includes the governor of Utah, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and as many others that wish to attend. As a background, Bob explained that BLM is under the Department of the Interior. When Bruce Babbitt was Secretary of the Interior under Bill Clinton, a large amount of land was designated as having wilderness characteristics, which affords much the same protection as wilderness. However, only Congress can create wilderness areas. During the George Bush administration, this designation was rescinded. Ken Salazar has announced the intention to redesignate this land as 'Wild Lands'. It includes a significant portion of southern Utah. During discussion, an article from the Wall Street Journal was mentioned. This article indicated it includes areas in New Mexico and central Colorado, as well as other states. The total area is the size of Colorado and Wyoming combined. Bob said there will be meetings in other states and strongly suggests that anyone that can should attend.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Tony Louderbough:** Tony asked for more trip leaders.

Past Events:

Gordy's Hill                      The New Year's weekend at Gordy's Hill was cancelled due to snow and frigid conditions.

Jan 1                                Caja Del Rio Snow Run - Mark Wolf led this run in place of the Gordy's Hill event. There were 4 vehicles that braved the weather. There was about 6 inches of snow, but the day was sunny and warm inside the vehicles. The run was over about 1 pm.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>                      Chile Challenge – SWFWDA Winter Quarterly. Registration forms and information now available at [www.chilechallenge.org](http://www.chilechallenge.org). They will be accepted by mail until January 28<sup>th</sup>, then registration must be done on-site during the event. Cliff Meier has raffle tickets for the SWFWDA raffle held the last night of Chile Challenge.

May 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>                      Farmington New Mexico. This will include two levels of trails, hard/extreme and easy/moderate. Cliff asks those that might be interested to let him know. He would like to know about how many campsites we need. Don Walker is looking at Farmington's camp ground to determine how good the facilities are. The Denver Mile-Hi Jeep Club has been invited to join us.



**Program Chairman's Report – Mark Woolfson:** Mark reported that he is preparing to order summer stock. If anyone would like a size larger than 2X, please let him know. He has a gift certificate from Discount Tires as part of the 50/50 raffle.

**Historian's Report – Justin Simenson:** Justin was not present. Anyone with pictures should upload them to the Picasa site or give a cd to Justin.

**Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Glenn told the guests to fill out the online application if they were interested in joining the club.

**Old Business:**

Roadrunner Food Bank: Frank G. Whiston reported that he had received a letter from the Roadrunner Food Bank. The letter, which Frank read, thanked us for our participation in the televised food drive and our support of their program. They indicated we had donated 2,291 pounds of food. Last year we had donated over 800 pounds, so we more than achieved our goal of doubling that amount.

Projector: Jeanne Meier brought up the subject of the club purchasing a projector which had been tabled until after the Summer Quarterly. Bob Telepak had originally brought up the idea when he was reporting on the Mountainair EA proposals using multiple maps. Bob and Pat Brady had subsequently done research on the subject and felt that technology was not sufficient for large groups in undarkened rooms. Discussion focused on the multiple uses that a projector could provide from showing trail maps, pictures or other media. Leon Duggar volunteered to research the issue further and report back.

**New Business:**

Super National Car Show: Lauri Rector reported that the local car club had been given space for 18 cars to be displayed in the Education Building. The show is January 28<sup>th</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. The cars have to be setup on Wednesday January 26<sup>th</sup>. The fee is \$45.00 per car and there is a \$7.00 parking pass that is good for all three days. A motion was made for the NM4W to pay \$52.00 each for up to 3 vehicles. The motion passed. Anyone interested in showing their car should contact Lauri Rector.

New Member – Dixon Patrick indicated that Jason Lavy had accumulated the required 5 points for membership. A motion was made to accept Jason as a member. The motion passed.

Cliff Meier thanked Mark Woolfson & Faith Dwyer for providing refreshments for the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

The following are the winners of the 50/50 raffle

- Mike Thorson - T-shirt
- Chris Sears - Baseball cap
- Jeff Rector - Discount Tire gift certificate
- Jeff Boggs - Flashlight
- Pat Brady - Flashlight
- Tracy Bakewell - \$39.00

Hosts for Fall and Winter Meetings:

- February - Tracy and Cheryle Bakewell
- March - Dixon and Zelda Patrick
- April - Cliff and Jeanne Meier



## President's Report

by Cliff Meier

Overall, January has been a pretty slow month with only one trail run on the Sagebrush Flats Loop Trail west of Santa Fe on January 1<sup>st</sup>. A folder for pictures of that run has been opened on the club Picasa website folder. If anyone has any more pictures, please post them in this folder. If you don't know how to do this, then visit the "members only" section of the club's website for instructions. It's got to be easy if I can do it!

It's time to set up runs for this spring. I'm sure Tony will be more than happy to get volunteers to lead trails. It's not that hard! While we are talking about runs, another reminder that the 2011 Chile Challenge is coming up fast, Feb 23-26. It's a great time to go south where it should be warmer. This year's CC will be special. Many folks may know Harold Off. Harold runs Off Again 4X4 in Farmington and has been a key player in the 4X4 world for many years. He has been a very generous contributor to the CC and the SWFWDA raffle. Harold has a very serious medical condition and as a result, many of the key players in the 4X4 world will at the CC to honor him. For information on the CC, go to the CC website at [www.chilechallenge.org](http://www.chilechallenge.org).

One last thing, the May Farmington run is starting to shape up. So far we have about 13 NM4W vehicles and at least 2 vehicles from the Denver Mile High 4X4 Club. We're asking for a tentative head count so we can select an RV park to use. If you think you may go and have not sent me an e-mail, please do so.

## Sagebrush Flats Happy New Year's Trail Ride

By Mark Wolf

I had originally planned to go to Gordy's Hill to run some trails but, the weather was going to be just flat too cold for those with open vehicles. So I decided to go to Sage Brush Flats and run that trail, hopefully in the snow. I waited until Thursday night to set the trip up to make sure Joan wasn't going to need her car that day. I didn't trust the Commando that far just yet as I have been having steering issues. She said yes at the last minute, so out went the e-mail inviting along anyone who would go. When Saturday morning came around, three other vehicles showed up to go along with me. Cliff & Jeannie Meier in their TJ, Paul Ayscue in his 99 WJ, and visitor Chris Gossett with his wife and family in their relatively new KJ Unlimited.

We met at 8:30 am, and after a quick driver's meeting we headed out at about 9:00 as I had planned. We were supposed to meet Miche Bove' in Santa Fe as she lives there but, when we got to the meeting location for her, she wasn't there. It was also past the time I had told her to meet us, so we just continued on. We began to see snow all around us from the latest winter storm and that was going to make it fun today! Although it was downright cold, I had figured it would be a decent run as there would be NO MUD this time! But, hey! the sun was shining bright on all of the snow and it made it really nice out there.

When we got to the trail head, we pulled over and aired down our tires (well...some of us did). After a short air down session, we continued out to the trail head. There was about 4" of powder snow due to the cold. All of the vehicles traveled it quite well and there was never a stuck or even an incident of running off the road. We ran the trail backwards like I usually do as you get to go up the hills and that's

always more fun. We got into the big valley and stopped for lunch. After a short lunch, we got back in and headed to the end of trail without further ado.

This is a fun trail when snow is on the ground as it makes it more challenging and definitely more scenic. It was a great group and everyone had a good time. I think we got back to Airport Road about 2:30 pm and three of us stopped to air up our tires. The Gossett family had not aired theirs down so they went on home. I think I got home about 4:00 pm and that was good for me! Thanks to those who went along, and Happy New Year everyone!





## Thank You Letter from the Road Runner Food Bank



December 13, 2010

Frank Whiston  
New Mexico Four Wheelers  
PO Box 90154  
Albuquerque, NM 87199

Dear Frank,

Thank you so much for being a part of our annual Live Remote with KOB TV on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and presenting 2,291 pounds of food to the Food Bank. Your willingness to share your story and your ongoing commitment to Roadrunner Food Bank helps inspire others. It helps our community see how easy it is to take action and get involved in helping us end hunger in New Mexico.

As our partner, we are so grateful that year after year you continue to step forward to help. Every week, your generosity helps nearly 40,000 individuals and ensures we have enough food to help hungry and needy people and families. In fact, so many of those we serve are children. Nearly half of those you help through your support are our smallest citizens our children.

Thank you for helping feed hungry people who can now lead productive lives simply because they have the one basic necessity we all need...food.

With warm holiday greetings,

Melody Wattenbarger  
President and CEO  
Roadrunner Food Bank



5840 Office Blvd NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
Phone: 505-247-2052  
Fax: 505-242-6471  
[www.rrfb.org](http://www.rrfb.org)





## For Sale



**2005 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon:** Hard Top and Soft Top Included, 4" Terra flex lift, 1" body lift, 33" Goodyear wrangler MTR Tires, Warn winch - XE9000i, Custom powder coated front winch bumper, Custom powder coated rear bumper with swing out tire carrier, New Ceramic Hybrid brakes all around, New Shocks, New Mastercraft grab handles, 49,764 miles, Excellent condition - very clean, Price - \$18,500. Call Jim Farrell at 505-859-6519.

**Cleaning my garage! Need to get rid of this stuff!** This is a partial list of stuff that may be useful to someone. 2ea Rancho 5000 shocks, excellent, fit the front of a stock 93-98 Grand Cherokee - \$40 pair; Detroit Tru-Trac for Dana 44 FRONT end, fits 3.92 – 5.89 gears - \$350; Ford 9" truck housing and brakes, no pumpkin - \$50. Call Mark Wolf at 505-856-8539.

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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](http://www.nm4w.org/join-the-club.htm).

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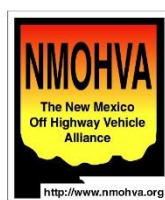
## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
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Feb 23 – 26	Chile Challenge	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
Mar 10	Club Meeting	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704

## NM4W Officers

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

Trail Tales  
 31 La Mirada  
 Belen, NM 87002





# Trail Tales



March 1, 2011

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From February 10, 2011  
by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held February 10<sup>th</sup> at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Guests:** Ken Davis, Ben Dackiewicz, Norm Kolb, John Moore, Mark Mullin, and Dave Weaver.

**Members Present:** Cody Bakewell, Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Glenn & Jan Bontly, Pat & Sue Brady, Rance Cochran, Mike & Kristy Coe, Leon Duggar, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Robert Holthfelder, Keith & Linda Jurey, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Chris Sears, Justin Simenson, Glenn & Rebagayle Vialpando, Frank & Beth Whiston, Mark Wolf, and Tahoe Zahn.

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

**Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe:** Mike reported a balance of \$3,480.53.

**Vice President Report – Dixon Patrick:** Dixon reported that on the Cedro Peak run there was a near infraction. The leader, Frank G. Whiston, dropped into one of the ruts and reached a point he could not go forward and had a large amount of snow in the back that prevented him from going backward. Also, he did not have a shovel. However, he did manage to dig himself out and did not require a strap, so no fine was assessed. Dixon also went over the points requirements for new members.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Wolf:** There has not been any activity on travel management plans since the January report.

Santa Fe National Forest: The website says late spring (April-May) for the release of the draft EIS.

Espanola District is to hold a meeting about the Caja Del Rio area. The first meeting was cancelled and the latest date was Feb 28<sup>th</sup> when no one could attend. Cliff Meier indicated a notice had gone out to reschedule the meeting for Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. That date is bad for everybody also.

Cibola National Forest: There is no word when draft EIS will be available for Magdalena and Mt Taylor ranger districts. Mountainair Ranger district must start over and there has been no word as to what they are doing with that.

Gila National Forest: Draft EIS is out and comments are due Mar 7<sup>th</sup>. Get your comments in and multiple comments are good.

NMOHVA will have a booth set up at the Bob Gerding's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Outdoor Hunting and Fishing Show at the fairgrounds this weekend. Some of the NM4W members will be helping man the booth. Stop by and say hello.

NMOHVA asks everyone to watch the current legislature for bills that could impact OHV use. HB91 is another attempt to raid the OHV sticker fund by the legislature this year. These funds are not general funds, but are 'user funded' monies paid by the user.

The designation of Mt Taylor as a cultural property has been thrown out in court. It ruled that the designation was meant for specific sites, not a mountain top.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Tony Louderbough:** Tony was not present, but reports were made by others. Volunteers are needed to lead additional runs.

Past Events:

Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Super National Car Show – Lauri Rector reported at that NM4W had two vehicles representing the club. Rance Cochran and Lauri's jeep were there and positioned so they were visible from the door. They had the two club banners on the wall, some photo albums, and a computer with a slide show running. There were a lot of people that went through.

Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Cedro Peak Snow Run – Frank G Whiston reported that four vehicles had participated in the run. The snow smoothed out the road and it was not very rocky. When they dropped into the valley the ruts combined with the snow made travel impossible, so they decided to go back and follow the ridge line. After lunch the girls went sledding while the adults visited. Everyone headed for home around 2:00.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> Chile Challenge – SWFWDA Winter Quarterly. Mail registration is over, but you can register onsite. Cliff Meier reminded everyone that he had tickets for the raffle and listed most of the prizes he had received. A motion was made for NM4W to purchase \$500.00 worth of tickets for the raffle. Motion passed.

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Pecos Elk Mountain Run – Justin Simenson is doing a run to Elk Mountain above Pecos New Mexico for those that may not be going to Chile Challenge. This will be easy-to-moderate, depending on snow/mud conditions. Meet at the Service Station at Hwys 550 & 528 in Rio Rancho at 8:30 am. This will be an all-day trip; bring lunch, water, and warm clothes.

March 10<sup>th</sup> Club meeting at Height Cumberland Presbyterian Church

May 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> Farmington New Mexico – Keith Jurey and Cliff Meier along with assistance from Don Walker, associate member from Farmington are planning a weekend trip to Farmington. Preliminary plan would be to arrive on Friday and run Saturday & Sunday, and return home Sunday night or Monday. There will have two types of runs, hard/extreme and easy/moderate. Possibly sand runs in addition to the rocks Farmington is famous for. Trail leaders will be Don Walker and other Farmington locals. More details on lodging/camping, etc. to follow as



the date gets closer. If you are planning on going let Cliff know. Campground selection will depend on how many will be camping.

**Program Chairman's Report – Mark Woolfson:** Mark was not present.

**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. Frank Whiston had uploaded his GPS track with his pictures from the Cedro Peak snow run. Justin recommended that a copy of the GPS track or a highlighted map was a good idea and encouraged everybody to do this for their runs.

**Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Glenn encouraged the visitors to fill out the online application if they wish to become members or to receive the newsletter and notices.

### **Old Business:**

Purchase of Projector for the club – Leon Duggar reported on his research of projectors that might meet the club's needs. He indicated he had used the Best Buy website because of selection and because of the reviews. He did not consider any that did not have high reviews. He narrowed down to 3 possible projectors:

Optoma HD20 Home Theater Projector - \$1099.99. Bulb cost is \$294.47 with a 4000 hour lamp life. This allowed every hookup that we would need, but really exceeded the needs of the club. Rating 4.9 out of 5.

Epson MM60 MovieMate 60 - \$649.99. Bulb cost \$159.00 with 5000 hours lamp life. Built-in DVD player with hookup for all media. Rating was 4.7 and this meets or exceeds the need of the club.

Epson Powerlite Home Cinema WXGA projector - \$699.99. Bulb cost is \$178.00 with up to 4000 hours. Rating was 4.7 and this meets or exceeds the need of the club.

After a brief discussion a motion was made to table the issue until the price comes down. Motion passed.

### **New Business:**

Someone to pull parts – Cliff Meier indicated he was contacted by an individual in Colorado that was looking for someone that would pull parts from the junk yard that the individual could sell through EBAY. Anyone interested should contact Cliff for the gentleman's name and number.

2011 Jeep Calendar – Cliff Meier indicated that one of the 4-wheel vendors had excess 2011 calendars and was offering them for a discounted price. Anyone interested should get contact information from Cliff Meier.

Cliff Meier thanked Cheryle and Tracy Bakewell for providing refreshments for the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

50/50 raffle \$23.00 for the winner.

Hosts for Winter Meetings:

March - Zelda and Dixon Patrick  
April - Cliff and Jeanne Meier



## President's Report by Cliff Meier

Jeanne and I just got back from this year's Chile Challenge. On Sunday we drove over to Deming to visit Jeanne's relatives. The drive was interesting in 60 mph + head winds! NM4W had great representation this year. We had 13 registered vehicles, including the Blakewell's, who just came down for the Saturday night dinner! The overall number of vehicles was about the same as last year with about 235 vehicles. This is down from when we started going 6 or 7 years ago where the turnout was over the current 350 vehicle limit. Hopefully when the economy improves the event can return to its previous numbers because it is truly a unique 4X4 event. My thanks to everyone that helped with the SWFWDA raffle on Saturday night.

We need a run or two in March and April. Anyone want to step up and lead one? Some suggestions are La Ventana (E), Rio Puerco (E), Caja del Rio (E), or maybe even the Tank Trap (H). Directions for all these runs are in Glenn's website at [webejeepin.com](http://webejeepin.com).

I will have to miss the next several meetings because I have to go to Florida to deal with some family issues. Dixon will fill in for me until I am able to return.

## Chile Challenge 2011

By Glenn Bontly

I attended my first Chile Challenge in Feb 2000, and participated every year thereafter through 2008. After missing out on 2009 & 2010 for one reason or another, Jan insisted we attend this year; I totally agreed.

In years past, we traveled down on Tuesday. Since Monday (President's Day) is a holiday for us Federal and Financial types, we would have to take 4 vacation days from work regardless of when we left. So we decided to head down on Sunday and make a whole week of it. Jeff & Paula Boggs recently purchased a 2006 Fleetwood Storm Class A motorhome, and this would be their first long haul flat towing their Jeep behind the new rig. Jan & I wanted to try "triple towing" our Jeep behind the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel. We met up in Lemitar at 9 am on Sunday for the trip down to the warmer weather in Las Cruces. Despite heavy cross winds, everything went smoothly during the trip. Upon arrival, we stopped at the Travel America truck stop to weigh our rigs. Jeff & Paula had room to spare all the way around. But despite the increased capacity of our new truck, we were right at the limit of our GCWR of 24,500 pounds. Of course, that didn't include our Jeep . . . :o)

We arrived at the fairgrounds with plenty of time to set up at a leisurely pace, and since there were few people there this early in the week, we had our pick of campsites. Monday and Tuesday were very relaxing, with Jeff & Paula learning about their new motorhome, and us catching up on some "household" chores in the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel. On Monday, we went down to the local RV dealer for some miscellaneous parts and to just look around. Tuesday we spend a little time visiting the shops in Old Mesilla and had a nice lunch at the La Posta Restaurant. Later that day, Cliff & Jeanne Meier and Jeff & Lauri Rector arrived.

Our chosen trail for Wednesday was an easy one; High Desert Tour. Unfortunately, Cliff & Jeanne's Jeep was leaking coolant, so they decided to forego the ride to make repairs. They didn't miss much;

our leader was hopelessly lost and it was pretty much just a wasted day. But it was still way better than being in Albuquerque at work! Later that evening, we were joined by Leon Duggar, Jack & Cathy Dickey, and Paul Caskey.

Thursday, we hit the Off Broadway trail with Paul and Jeff & Paula. This is one of my favorite trails, and it ended up being the best trail of the week for us. Our trail leader did an excellent job! As usual, the trail had changed from previous years, creating new challenges. We had a relatively small group of 14 vehicles, but lost a few along the way. For one, the Land Rover in our group quickly realized he was in over his head with this trail, and turned back. After an early return to camp, Jan & I headed into town to pick up a few supplies at the local Wal-Mart. Those who have traveled with us in the past know that no trip is complete without a visit to Wal-Mart! We returned to find that Pat & Sue Brady and Bob & Carol Provance were there. That evening, a bunch of us made the annual trek to Chilitos for dinner. Excellent food and great service. Later that evening, Mark & Joan Wolf arrived.

Friday we did Amatista Ledges, also a fun trail that we've driven many times before. I think our trail leader was stressed that day, and that's all I'll say about him.

On Saturday we did our traditional run through Broad Canyon. Our trail leader didn't have a CB radio, and probably didn't have a fire extinguisher or first aid kit either (an inside joke). It took nearly 3 hours to get to the trail head. We had to skip the first play area (the Pickle Barrel) because we didn't have enough time. I think I won't say any more about this day either.

Overall, Jan & I had a good week. We spent time visiting with friends, getting better acquainted with other friends, and spent quality time with each other. The meals provided by Roberto's on Friday and Saturday were plentiful and very appetizing. The ice cream after the Mexican dinner on Friday was a welcomed treat. The raffle went smoothly and lots of useful prizes were won by many. Unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. Due to forecasted dangerous winds, Jan & I pulled out at the crack of dawn for the trip back home to reality on Sunday morning. So we missed stopping for breakfast with the group. But Wolfie said he would have a pancake for me. I'm sure it was tasty!

### **Pics from the Chile Challenge 2011**

By Joan Wolf and Bob Norton











## For Sale



**2005 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon:** Hard Top and Soft Top Included, 4" Terra flex lift, 1" body lift, 33" Goodyear wrangler MTR Tires, Warn winch - XE9000i, Custom powder coated front winch bumper, Custom powder coated rear bumper with swing out tire carrier, New Ceramic Hybrid brakes all around, New Shocks, New Mastercraft grab handles, 49,764 miles, Excellent condition - very clean, Price - \$18,500. Call Jim Farrell at 505-859-6519.

**Cleaning my garage! Need to get rid of this stuff!** This is a partial list of stuff that may be useful to someone. 2ea Rancho 5000 shocks, excellent, fit the front of a stock 93-98 Grand Cherokee - \$40 pair; Detroit Tru-Trac for Dana 44 FRONT end, fits 3.92 – 5.89 gears - \$350; Ford 9" truck housing and brakes, no pumpkin - \$50. Call Mark Wolf at 505-856-8539.

**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.

Please visit our web site at [www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm](http://www.nm4w.org/classifieds.htm)

## Club Notes

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

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

**Submission Due Date:** Input for the Trail Tales is *normally* due to the Editor not later than the **25<sup>th</sup> of each month**, with publication around the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:TrailTales@nm4w.org), or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

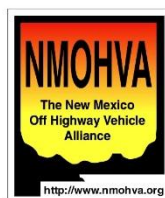
## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Mar 10	Club Meeting	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
Apr 14	Club Meeting	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
May 7	Club Meeting at the Meier's	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704

## NM4W Officers

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

Trail Tales  
31 La Mirada  
Belen, NM 87002





# Trail Tales



April 1, 2011

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From March 10, 2011

by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held March 10<sup>th</sup> at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Dixon Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Guests:** Nick Frasch, Mark Mullin, John Rabenius, Sandy McIntosh, Jesse Michaud, and Donald Roy.

**Members Present:** Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Glenn & Jan Bontly, Pat and Sue Brady, Mike Coe, Guy Conway, David Gill, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavy, Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff Rector, Chris Sears, Mike & Linda Sells, Justin Simenson, Ken Tinker, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark Wolf.

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

**Treasurer's Report – Mike Coe:** Mike reported a balance of \$2,847.00. He also indicated that Kristie would be working out of town and he would like for someone to take over the responsibility of treasurer. After a brief discussion, Jason Lavy volunteered. A motion was made that Jason Lavy replace Mike Coe as treasurer until the elections in July. Motion passed.

**Vice President Report – Dixon Patrick:** Dixon indicated he had no reports of fines and asked if anyone had knowledge of an offense worthy of a fine. None were reported.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Wolf:** There has not been any activity on travel management plans since the January report.

Santa Fe National Forest: The website says late spring (April-May) for the release of the draft EIS.

Cibola National Forest: There is no word when the draft EIS will be available for Magdalena and Mt. Taylor ranger districts. Mountainair Ranger district must start over and there has been no word as to what they are doing with that.

Gila National Forest: The comment period for the EIS closed 3/7/2011. A 'protest' rally was held Saturday and it was reported that there was really good turnout. Steve Pearce attended and promised to try to help.

NMOHVA wants everybody to remember that HB2 is an attempt to raid the OHV sticker fund, and to contact your representative.

NMOHVA president Mark Winscott put in a lot of hours attending committee meetings and deserves a lot of credit for fighting for the OHV community.

Jeanne Meier asked about an article in the Journal regarding a proposed new forest service “forest use” rule. The FS was re-doing finalized travel management plans and would be reviewing plans for Santa Fe, Cibola, and Gila national forest to be sure they were consistent with the new rule. No one knew the specifics of the new rule.

**Trip Chairman’s Report – Tony Louderbough:** Tony was not present, but reports were made by others. Volunteers are needed to lead additional runs.

Past Events:

Feb 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> NMOHVA booth at Bob Gerdings Outdoor show. Frank Whiston indicated he worked during part of the busiest time and had gotten some new members and signed more for alerts.

Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> Chile Challenge – SWFWDA Winter Quarterly. Several members of the club attended and everyone seemed to have a good time and no one had a major problem. Attendance was in the 230 range. BLM had a real presence and was watching for any infractions of the rules. No one in club won a big prize for the raffle, but the club and some individuals won some smaller prizes. The total for the raffle was down, but a final number was not available. Jeff Boggs had a booth for NMOHVA and got several new members and signed up more for alerts.

Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Pecos Elk Mountain Run/La Bahada – Justin Simenson reported that Elk Mountain road was closed, so they went up La Bahada and over to Tank Trap. There were 9 vehicles, 2 of which were members. Two left early, but everybody else seemed to have a good time.

Upcoming Events:

April 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> SWFWDA Spring Quarterly – Ozark Mountain 4x4 is hosting the spring quarterly at Southern Missouri Off-road Ranch in Seymour Missouri. See the Southwest website for more details.

April 14<sup>th</sup> Club meeting at Height Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

May 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> Farmington Trip – Keith Jurey indicated about 14 vehicles had signed up to attend, with 2 of them being from Denver Mile-Hi Jeep Club. For those camping, plans are to stay at Mom & Pops RV. He has a list of motels, restaurants, and stores in the area. Preliminary plan is to arrive on Friday and run Saturday & Sunday, and return home Sunday night or Monday. There will be two types of runs, hard/extreme and easy/moderate. Possible sand runs in addition to the rocks Farmington is famous for. Trail leaders will be Don Walker and other Farmington locals. If you are planning to go, let Keith Jurey know.

**Program Chairman’s Report – Mark Woolfson:** Mark was not present.

**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. As indicated during trip reports, there were some new folders for Chile Challenge and the La Bahada run.



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

**Old Business:**

Hosts for summer meetings – Jeanne Meier indicated that she needed someone to take the April refreshments for the church and the May meeting they had previously volunteered for. June is the club picnic at Oak Flats.

April	Tracy and Cheryle Bakewell
May	Mark Mullin (tentative)
July	Bob and Carol Provance
August	Jason and Sara Lavy

**New Business:**

Casa Jeep Jam - Lonnie Moody with Casa Chrysler Jeep on the Westside contacted the club to see if NM4W would host a Cedro Peak run as part of the upcoming Jeep Jam on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. The first concern was whether that would open up the club to liability. There was also concern about the level of knowledge of those that might attend. Alternative sites were discussed and also the possibility of just having a club run scheduled after the jam instead of ‘sponsoring’ a run. Dixon was going to get more information on the event.

Donation for food for the June picnic – A motion was made to donate \$200 for food and drinks for the June picnic. Motion passed.

Hosts for the meeting were Dixon and Zelda Patrick.

50/50 raffle – Ken Tinker won the 50/50 raffle of \$27.00 and donated it to the club. In addition to the money, the raffle included a Chile Challenge t-shirt, a ‘hairy’ hat, and two gift certificates for tires that expire March 31, 2011.

**Hosts for Upcoming Meetings:**

April	Tracy and Cheryle Bakewell
May	Mark Mullin (tentative)
June	Mark and Joan Wolf
July	Bob and Carol Provance
August	Jason and Sara Lavy



**President's Report**  
by Dixon Patrick

With Cliff Meier out on family duties, I get to provide you with an “Acting-Presidents” report. It may be early, but start thinking about being a Club Officer. Nominations can be from other members, or consider nominating yourself. I have only been on the board for one year, but it has been a very rewarding experience. I highly recommend a board position to any active member.

As most of us know, Chuck Peeples passed away recently. Thanks to Joan Wolf for being the messenger and for sending a flower arrangement on behalf of the club.

Overall, the year has been pretty slow so far, with 3 meetings and 4 runs. It's time to get motivated and set up runs for this spring. Tony Louderbough is looking for volunteers to lead trails, and remember to also send Glenn an e-mail with the details so he can post it to the website schedule. If you have a trail you would like to run, let others know. Many of the runs are on Glenn's website at webejeepin.com, including maps, descriptions, and GPS coordinates.

Remember the club Picasa website folder; I have opened this a few times to show prospective members what we do on the trail. A few people I have met have a perception that we all have rock buggies like on TV. If anyone has any more pictures, please post them in this folder.

I am looking forward to a good wheeling season and hope to see all of you out on the trail. Remember our next meeting is April 14th at the Church.

## **Erwin Greven: Animal Rescue Hero**

By Mark Wolf



As a Reserve Sheriff's Deputy and the lone Animal Control Officer for Torrance County, Erwin Greven makes miracles happen every day. In December 2010, an 87-year-old man returned home from visiting his hospitalized wife and found their 18-month-old dog was missing from his enclosure. Thankfully, the dog returned the next day, but with a crippling arrow through his left hind leg. With limited funds, his wife in the hospital, and no time to adequately care for his severely injured animal, the man was left with few options. Knowing he could not afford euthanasia, he called Deputy Greven's animal shelter and relinquished his

beloved pet with the expectation it would be put down. Deputy Greven quickly placed a call to Animal Protection of New Mexico asking for help with the veterinary bill. He was able to get a veterinary clinic to perform the surgery at a reduced rate and convinced the Torrance County Animal Shelter to provide the extensive post-surgery care. After the dog recovered from his injuries, he was returned to an incredibly surprised and grateful owner.

**One of our own members is a hero! Congratulations to Erwin Greven!**

## Chuck Peeples

By Joan & Mark Wolf



“Just think, we coulda been home mowing the yard,” Chuck Peeples would remark as the club stopped for lunch at a stupendous view in the San Juans. We’d be gaping at mountain lakes, a 360-degree view of the Rocky Mountain 14’ers, postcard-perfect wildflowers, and Chuck’s comment would capture the special moment in time and place.

NM4W lost a special member and friend on March 21, 2011, when Chuck Peeples succumbed to a 9½ year battle against cancer. Although the cancer slowed him down, it didn’t stop his zest for life. Whether 4-wheeling, exploring old mines

in the San Juans, riding his motorcycle to Red River, or attending a grandchild’s birthday party, Chuck did everything with enthusiasm and joy.

Chuck took his Scrambler and TJ everywhere—to the Jemez, Zuni’s, Utah, Caballo, Las Cruces, and Silverton, his very favorite place. He knew the mines and trails around Silverton like few others ever did or will.

A skilled 4-wheeler and mechanic, Chuck reached out to those who weren’t so confident. He didn’t know a stranger. He enjoyed his TJ immensely and when he bought that Scrambler “for Ethel May”, he couldn’t wait to get it out. And get it out he did. Although, it seemed every time he would take it out with the Thompson’s present, something would go wrong with it. It became Mary Thompson’s nemesis, and boy did she give him heck! However, Chuck never gave up trying to perfect the Scrambler because he knew that Ethel May loved it. So Chuck continued to work on the Scrambler—and try it again, always with a smile.



Chuck and Ethel May, along with their loving family (daughters Charlene and Debbie and spouses, four grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren) went on numerous NM4W day runs and campouts over the years. It was always a delight to see Chuck and Ethel May on a run—because you knew it would be fun and wonderful just to be around them. We also enjoyed his knowledge of the Silverton, CO area every time we went up there.



We'll always remember Chuck, 6:00 a.m. at the Gallup Jeep club event at McGaffey Lake, banging pans together and yelling outside our camper, "Wolfie, get up and pee, the world's on fire!"

Chuck, thanks for being you and for giving us the privilege to know you. For that, we are honored.

## **So Long, My Friend**

By Glenn Bontly



I am deeply saddened by the loss of my good friend, Chuck Peeples. I was fortunate to be able to attend Chuck's Memorial Service; what a wonderful celebration of a rich, fulfilling life. I have many fond memories of Chuck, dating back over the 10+ years since moving here to New Mexico.

One of my favorites was one of our annual trips down to

Caballo Lake/Palomas Gap. This was back in 2003, and Chuck was in the infamous Scrambler. Chuck had a rough weekend. On the way down, he blew a tire on his trailer. Didn't even know it until some guy caught up with him and pointed it out. Various problems on the trail followed, including a broken front leaf spring locating pin.

We used ratchet straps to secure the front axle in order to limp back to the campground. Just off of the trail, the Scrambler ran out of gas. Luckily, Chuck had a full Jerry Can, because gas on the trail can be very expensive (from Chuck's School of Business)! As usual, there was the traditional poking of fun. But not that evening back at camp. Chuck had taken everything in stride throughout the day, and his next misfortune was no different. He was grilling a steak and accidentally flipped it off of the grill and onto the ground! There was dead silence. Without missing a beat, Chuck nonchalantly took the dirt-coated steak inside his camper, and emerged with a couple of hot dogs!



**Here are some other pictures I found of Chuck in my photo album:**



**Chile Challenge  
Las Cruces, NM**

**Sandia Gulch Trail  
The "V" Rock**



**Hole in the Rock Trail  
Utah**



**Silverton, CO**

**Poughkeepsie  
Gulch Trail**

Chuck “teasing” Jeff Rector  
with a tow strap.

Chuck said that a “pink” strap would  
have been even more motivational!

**Chuck & Ethel May on the  
Sagebrush Flats Trail**







## Silverton, CO

Chuck unsuccessfully tried to convince Charlene and Carrie that it was a BAD idea to ride their bikes down Black Bear Pass!

## The “Log Skidder” Jemez Mountains, NM

Another very fond memory: one of our annual treks to the Jemez for Memorial Day weekend.

It was a tradition to visit the old Log Skidder each trip, and to have Chuck explain what this old machine was used for and how it worked.



I do so enjoy my Starbuck’s in the afternoon; I usually go for a cup every weekday afternoon. It was Saturday, 12 Mar 2011. Jan was working that day and I had just finished a boatload of chores around the house. So I decided to run up to Los Lunas for my coffee. Low and behold, I ran into Chuck, Ethel May, and Debbie (Jimmy arrived shortly after). Chuck greeted me with a big ‘ole hug. :o) Since I moved down to Belen back in 2007, Chuck, Ethel May, Jan, and I said we needed to visit more with each other, now that we lived so close. We did just that, but not nearly often enough. It’s unfortunate

that we get so wrapped up in all of life's activities, we don't make enough time for the things that are really important. I regret not spending more time with them, but I was blessed to have been given this opportunity to visit with Chuck one last time.

Chuck, it was an honor to be associated with you and your family, and to call you my friend during these many years. You taught me so much about Jeeps, motorcycles, Dodge trucks, campers . . . and life in general. We certainly had some great times! I take comfort in knowing that your suffering is over and that you are now in a "better place". But I will miss you dearly.

So long, my friend.

 <span style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; margin: 0 20px;">For Sale</span> 
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**2005 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon:** Hard Top and Soft Top Included, 4" Terra flex lift, 1" body lift, 33" Goodyear wrangler MTR Tires, Warn winch - XE9000i, Custom powder coated front winch bumper, Custom powder coated rear bumper with swing out tire carrier, New Ceramic Hybrid brakes all around, New Shocks, New Mastercraft grab handles, 49,764 miles, Excellent condition - very clean, Price - \$18,500. Call Jim Farrell at 505-859-6519.

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

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

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

**Submission Due Date:** Input for the Trail Tales is *normally* due to the Editor not later than the **25<sup>th</sup> of each month**, with publication around the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:TrailTales@nm4w.org), or Trail Tales, 31 La Mirada Rd., Belen, NM 87002.

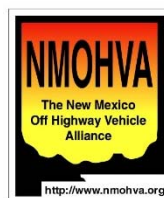
<b>Schedule of Events</b>
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Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
Apr 14	Club Meeting	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
May 7	Club Meeting at the Meier's	Call Cliff Meier	505-281-3704
May 13 – 16	Farmington Trip	Call Keith Jurey	505-298-0299

## NM4W Officers

<p><b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:President@nm4w.org">President@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:Vice-president@nm4w.org">Vice-president@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Secretary</b> Jeanne Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Secretary@nm4w.org">Secretary@nm4w.org</a></p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:Treasurer@nm4w.org">Treasurer@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Program Chairman</b> Mark Woolfson 294-2753 <a href="mailto:Program-chairman@nm4w.org">Program-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Historian</b> Justin Simenson 299-6982 <a href="mailto:Historian@nm4w.org">Historian@nm4w.org</a></p>
<p><b>Trip Chairman</b> Tony Louderbough 232-0345 <a href="mailto:Trip-chairman@nm4w.org">Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Environmental Affairs</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales  
31 La Mirada  
Belen, NM 87002







# Trail Tales



May 1, 2011

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From April 14, 2011  
by Joan Wolf



The meeting was held April 14<sup>th</sup> at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Vice President Dixon Patrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Guests:** Don Roy ('93 YJ), Ben Dackiewicz (TJ), Leroy & Yvonne Garcia, Ken Davis, Kyle Tidmore & sons Dillon & Dalton ('03 Rubicon).

**Members Present:** Jeff Boggs, Glenn & Jan Bontly, Pat & Sue Brady, Keith Chapin, Jeannie Grevin, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Tony Louderbough, Bob Norton, Dixon Patrick, Dan Pritchard, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Chris Sears, Mike & Linda Sells, Bob Telepak, Ken Tinker, Glenn & Rebagayle Vialpando, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. Whiston, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Mark Woolfson & Faith Dwyer, Tahoe Zahn.

**Secretary's Report – Jeanne Meier:** Jeannie was not present, so Joan Wolf filled in. A motion was made and passed to dispense with reading of the minutes and accept as published in the newsletter. A sympathy card for Ethel May Peeples was circulated and Mark Wolf spoke about the memorial service held for Chuck Peeples on March 23.

**Treasurer's Report – Jason Lavy:** Jason was not present. No report.

**VP/Sheriff Report – Dixon Patrick:** Mark Woolfson self-reported and fined himself \$0.25 for the Cedro Peak run. Since it was the first time he'd had the Jeep out in eight months, Mark forgot to shift to low range. When the clutch started smelling, he realized it was still in high range.

Dan Pritchard was fined \$0.25 for driveshaft breakage at the start of the Tank Trap trail. It required getting a strap out.

## Trip Chairman's Report – Tony Louderbough

### Past Events:

April 10 Tank Trap - Frank G. Whiston reported that 15 vehicles turned out. It was a beautiful spring day in the Caja del Rio and everything went smoothly except for one breakage. There are > 200 photos on Picasa and a video on You Tube.

### Upcoming Events:

May 13-16 Farmington - Keith Jurey said ~15 vehicles are expected, most from NM4W but a few from Denver's Mile-Hi Jeep Club. Don Walker has invited tenters to camp at his house if desired. There will be hard/extreme and easy/moderate runs. Frank G. Whiston will

acquire stickers for May 14, Annual Worldwide Go Topless Day. It's a day of celebrating the Jeep spirit, though a topless Jeep is not required. For Farmington trip details, contact Keith Jurey.

July 23 Casa Westside Jeep Jam – Dixon Patrick

July 30 Cedro Peak Run – Dixon Patrick

Jul 30-Aug 6 All-4-Fun Mile-Hi Jeep Event - Tony Louderbough noted that this popular event will be in Salida, Colorado.

**Program Chairman's Report - Mark Woolfson:** Mark has re-ordered the NM4W contact/business cards. Members are encouraged to pass them out to anyone interested in the club. Due to health reasons, Mark said he must resign from Program Chair position. The duties are to stock and sell club clothing, hats, stickers, etc., and sell tickets for the 50/50 raffle. His partner, Faith Dwyer, has kept everything very well organized. As reported under New Business below, Sue Brady volunteered to fill out Mark's term.

**Historian's Report – Justin Simenson:** Justin was not present. There are many club photos on the Picasa site. At present, videos cannot be posted to Picasa.

**Webmaster & Editor's Report:** Glenn asked guests to fill out an online application to ensure being added to the NM4W mailing list.

**Director of Environmental Affairs Report - Mark Wolf:** Mark had nothing new to report on the Santa Fe National Forest or Mountainair Travel Management Plans.

Bob Telepak urged members to sign an online petition sponsored by the Blue Ribbon Coalition at [http://www.sharetrails.org/public-lands/?section=HR758\\_petition](http://www.sharetrails.org/public-lands/?section=HR758_petition). This petition supports legislation for returning power back to the Antiquities Act and reducing the President's power to declare national monuments. The petition aligns with a bill sponsored by a California Congressman. It proposes that the President could only declare the smallest amount of land necessary for the care and maintenance of the objects to be protected. The current administration is considering declaring vast tracts of western land, including Utah's San Rafael Swell, as national monuments. There are at least two areas in New Mexico on the list.

NMOHVA's annual meeting was held March 26 at Sandia BMW. New officers were announced and the 20-25 attendees discussed last year's activities and future plans. Jeff Boggs encouraged NM4W members to join NMOHVA, an advocacy group for keeping New Mexico trails open for motorcycles, ATVs, and full-size vehicles. NMOHVA is working on a system to automatically generate notices for membership renewals.

### **Old Business:**

Dixon reiterated that a host is needed for the September meeting. Hosts for summer meetings:

May	Mark Mullin (tentative)
June 11	Mark and Joan Wolf at Oak Flat Picnic Ground
July	Bob and Carol Provance
August	Jason and Sara Lavy
September	NEED a host

Casa Westside Jeep Jam - Dixon volunteered to set up a NM4W display at the July 23 event. He'll take the club banner and NM4W and NMOHVA contact cards. On the following Saturday (July 30) Dixon will lead a club run at Cedro Peak and invite Jeep Jam attendees to come. It was motioned, seconded, and approved for Dixon to take these actions. He will ask Casa's Lonnie Moody about reserving a display area for club vehicles.

**New Business:**

Program Chair – Mark Woolfson stated that he must resign. Sue Brady volunteered and was confirmed by the membership as Program Chair for the remainder of the term.

Officer Elections in July – Dixon asked everyone to think of being an officer and help spread out the duties and efforts.

Cibola National Forest Workdays – As part of a NMOHVA grant for off-highway trails, NM4W offered volunteer labor for trail maintenance, etc. Frank G. Whiston thinks there will be several workday Saturdays throughout the summer. Sample tasks would be hauling cement bags and materials in 4WD pickups and constructing width limiters at motorcycle trailheads. Contact Frank if interested.

Fundraiser – Lauri Rector is seeking sponsors for her walk in the May 1<sup>st</sup> Making Strides for Breast Cancer. It was motioned, seconded, and approved that NM4W will contribute \$25 to sponsor Lauri in Making Strides.

Mt Taylor Clean-up Day – Jeff Boggs said that in memory of NMOHVA Board Member, B.R. Fjord, there will be a trash pick-up day. It will probably be Sept 24 in conjunction with National Public Lands Day. B.R. was a longstanding member of NMOHVA and was instrumental in keeping motorized trails open and in the public eye.

There are several persons eligible for club membership but none were present. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**50/50 Raffle** – Frank R. Whiston won the 50/50 raffle of \$26.



**President's Report**  
by Dixon Patrick

Cliff Meier was out on family duties and has now returned, so I get to provide you with one more "Acting-Presidents" report. I really enjoy this club, and just like me many of you have been transplanted to our area away from the families we grew up with, so this club becomes a part of our family. Because I keep track of "points", I have noticed an increase in visitor applications, so if you get the chance, spend some time with them at meetings and on the trail. Find out if they new to the area, new to 4x4 in general, or just need to know where trails are.

As we know, summer is here and the warm weather motivates us to get out in your favorite 4X4. We had two runs last month and only one is on the schedule for next month. If you have a trail you would like to run, let others know. If you would like to lead but have never talked to one of us that has, it only takes some minor planning and just go. I find it more exciting to go as a group with so many unique builds, but with the same goal of conquering the trail. Tony Louderbough is our Trip Chairman, and is looking for volunteers to lead trails. Many of the runs are in Glenn's website at [webejeepin.com](http://webejeepin.com), with maps, descriptions, and GPS coordinates.

For members, remember the clubs Picasa website folder; I have opened this a few times to show prospective members what we do on the trail. After the tank trap run, I found over 200 pictures on the site by the time I had unloaded my Jeep and had dinner; I guess we are getting better at this computer stuff. The site is easy and allows us to upload and download pictures, and comments to pictures always allow an opportunity for us to have some fun.

The June meeting is fast approaching, and at that meeting each Member may vote by secret ballot for the person of his/her choice to be "**NM 4-Wheeler of the Year**", who will be awarded with a trophy, plaque, or certificate at the July meeting. So be thinking of who has contributed to our club and to the 4X4 community at large, or simply someone who helped you enjoy the sport.

Well speaking of supporting the club, how about becoming a Club Officer. Nominations can be from other members, or consider nominating yourself. I have only been on the board for one year, but it has been a very rewarding experience, and I nominate myself to continue as VP for another year, but any member is eligible and we can let the club vote on it. So what do you have to do? First go to the club website, click on [SOPs](#), and scroll down to **ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS**. Positions include: President, Vice-President, Program Chairman, Trip Chairman, Director of Environmental Affairs, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Delegate to the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association.

I am looking forward to a good wheeling season and hope to see all of you out on the trail. Remember our next meeting is May 7th at MY house, for our first pot luck of the year. I will have a grill available, and shade, so bring your chairs, and fill up my front yard with your 4X4s.

## **NMOHVA Cedro Peak Project**

By Frank G. Whiston



NMOHVA hosted a short ground-breaking ceremony for the Cedro Peak trail project at the Chamisoso trail head after their Annual Meeting on Saturday, March 26. If you have been around for a while, you might recall that NMOHVA received a \$330,000 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant for TMR implementation on Sandia Ranger District (Cedro Peak). Total project cost (grant + match) = \$450,000. You might be wondering what grant + match means. The RTP money is grant money from the government that NMOHVA has secured to put toward the motorized system of roads and

trails near Cedro Peak. The match is the equivalent of \$120,000 of volunteer labor. When I was NM4W president, I assisted NMOHVA with the grant application by signing the club up for some of the volunteer labor. The project is now underway and will continue throughout the summer. Jim Cooper (pictured 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left) of Pan Pacific Services is managing the project for NMOHVA. Also pictured is NMOHVA President Mark Winscott (Right) and NMOHVA member John Omallia (Center on the motorcycle).

So, here is what the project is going to need from NM4W primarily. There is a need for 4WD vehicles that can haul building materials and signs to trailheads in the backcountry. One of the larger items is a



trail width limiter which will require a pickup or a trailer. Actually pretty easy work and 90% is driving your 4x4. The work schedule is still being worked out, but I will serve as the NM4W volunteer liaison to the project. Please contact me (Frank Whiston, [whistonfamily@msn.com](mailto:whistonfamily@msn.com) ) if you would like to volunteer.

### **Picnic/Meeting at Oak Flat Picnic Ground**

By Joan Wolf

**When:** Saturday, June 11. Come any time after 3:30 p.m. Eat at 5:00, meeting will follow.

**What to bring:** Side dish or dessert.

**Club will provide:** Hamburger and hot dogs, drinks, plates, and utensils.

This year's site (Locust) is close to an open grassy field so the kids will have room to play. Several of the picnic tables are covered, most are in the shade. The site accommodates 100. Questions, call Joan Wolf at 856-8539.

**Directions to Oak Flat Picnic Ground (Locust site):** From I-40 & Tramway, take I-40 east, then exit #175 (Tijeras/Cedar Crest/Hwy 337). Turn right (south) onto Hwy 337 and proceed south 8.5 miles. At the Oak Flat Picnic Ground sign, turn left and proceed 1 mile east to the picnic grounds entrance. Follow signs to the Locust site. From I-40 & Tramway, it's a 20-minute drive.

### **Webmaster & Newsletter Editor**

By Glenn Bontly

As you know, Jan & I moved into our 5<sup>th</sup> wheel (the "little house") last summer and have recently put our "big house" up for sale. We are still on track to stay in the Albuquerque area until the summer of 2012. Of course, that will depend on if/when our big house sells in this crummy housing market! In addition to that, I hope to be starting a new job within the next month or so, which will take up more of my limited free time.

I can't remember exactly when I took over the positions of webmaster and newsletter editor, but it was a long time ago. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the Club in this capacity! But due to the aforementioned life changes, it's time for me to pass on these torches. I'm already working with someone who is willing to take over the web site, but the Club will need a new newsletter editor in the near future. Being newsletter editor is way easier than being webmaster. All you need is a computer with word processing software (e.g., MS Word), and a printer. You don't even have to do much printing. I only send out 6 hard copies of the Trail Tales each month; everyone else just gets an e-mail notice when the newsletter gets published on the web site. And most important, ***you don't have to be a "good writer" to be the newsletter editor***, because ALL of the content is written by other contributors (i.e., meeting minutes, officer report, trip reports, etc)! Of course, you can write your own articles if you want to. You can continue using my existing format (which I can provide to you in MS Word format), or you can create your own style. The newsletter editor is not an officer position, so you don't have to be "elected" by the membership. All you have to do is volunteer. The new officers will be elected in July, and I think this would be a good time for the new editor to take over the Trail Tales. If you are interested, or have any questions/concerns, please feel free to e-mail me at [gdbontly@gmail.com](mailto:gdbontly@gmail.com).



Pictures from the 10 Apr Tank Trap Trail Ride







## For Sale



**Tires and other stuff from my 2002 TJ:** I have 5 BFG KM2 35/15 tires 90% tread and garaged, with no flats. I would like to sell, \$600 for all 5. I also have the Down East Offroad high steer kit <http://www.downeastoffroad.com/HIGHSTEER.htm> for a TJ, \$500 (I bought it new for \$1200). ARB air locker to fit a stock TJ Dana 30, \$350 (locker only). Also have 5 old 35/15 Goodyear MTR's (not Kevlar) with @40% tread that would make excellent spares or you could even run trails with them \$10 each. Have a Dana 30 housing and axle shafts, AR136 15 inch wheels used with rock rash. Call Joe Wilson at 505-821-6154.

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

## Club Notes

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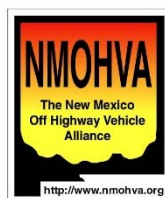
## Schedule of Events

Date(s):	Event:	For More Information:	Phone:
May 7	Club Meeting at the Patrick's	Call Dixon or Zelda	505-271-9133
Jun 11	NM4W Picnic/Meeting at Oak Flat	Call Joan Wolf	505-856-8539

## NM4W Officers

<p><b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:President@nm4w.org">President@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:Vice-president@nm4w.org">Vice-president@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Secretary</b> Jeanne Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Secretary@nm4w.org">Secretary@nm4w.org</a></p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:Treasurer@nm4w.org">Treasurer@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Program Chairman</b> Sue Brady 898-6449 <a href="mailto:Program-chairman@nm4w.org">Program-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Historian</b> Justin Simenson 299-6982 <a href="mailto:Historian@nm4w.org">Historian@nm4w.org</a></p>
<p><b>Trip Chairman</b> Tony Louderbough 232-0345 <a href="mailto:Trip-chairman@nm4w.org">Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Environmental Affairs</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales  
31 La Mirada  
Belen, NM 87002







# Trail Tales



June 1, 2011

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From May 7, 2011  
by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held May 7th at the home of Zelda and Patrick Dixon. Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 6:20 pm and thanked Dixon for presiding over the April meeting.

**Guests:** Nick and Sara Frasch, John Moore, Don Roy, David and Mary Ann Entz.

**Members Present:** Cody Bakewell, Tracy and Cheryle Bakewell, Glenn and Jan Bontly, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Ron and Becca Hyman, Keith and Linda Jurey, Ed and Lyn Kausche, Jason and Sara Lavy, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Dixon and Zelda Patrick, Bob and Carol Provance, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Phil and Ilene Rodacy, Glenn and Rebagayle Vialpando, Frank G. and Beth Whiston, Frank R. and Donna Whiston, Mark and Joan Wolf.

**Secretary's Report- Jeanne Meier:** A motion was made to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter. The motion passed. Jeanne thanked Joan Wolf for taking minutes for the April meeting. She mentioned elections were in July and encouraged members to consider running for the secretary position.

**Treasurer's Report – Jason Lavy:** Jason reported a balance of \$2,900.98.

**Vice President Report – Dixon Patrick:** Dixon indicated that fines were reported in the trip report and he asked if there were any that had not been reported. Nick & Sara Frasch and Don Roy had enough points for membership. A motion was made to accept them as members and motion passed.

### **Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Wolf:**

Mt Taylor has released their travel management plan. They selected Alternate C with some modification, which included adding 350 acres for off-road use.

Santa Fe National Forest: The website indicates that the DEIS will now be released August 2011.

Congress is trying to pass an Omnibus federal lands bill and is holding closed door meetings with no input from the public.

There is no word on Mountainair.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Tony Louderbough:** Tony was not present, but reports were made by others. Volunteers are needed to lead additional runs.

## Past Events:

- April 30<sup>th</sup> NMOHVA work project at Cedro Peak. There was a work project in the Cedro Peak area. Vehicle limiter gate material was delivered to selected locations and the gates will be built at a later date.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> Jemez Run to Goblin Rocks and archeological site – Pat Brady was not present at the meeting, but there were 4 participants in what became a snow run. Goblin Rocks were very interesting and off a short walk from the road, but you have to know where to stop. The group proceeded up Paliza Canyon, but had to turn around near the top when road became too slippery for the last vehicle. The ruins were impressive, even covered with snow. Another run needs to be planned when weather is better. Cody Bakewell was fined for impeding progress while removing parts (antenna) from his vehicle.

## Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

- May 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> Farmington New Mexico – Keith Jurey indicated about 19 vehicles had signed up to attend, with 2 of them being from Denver Mile-Hi Jeep Club. For participants camping, plans are to stay at Mom & Pops RV. Preliminary plan is to arrive on Friday and run Saturday & Sunday, and return home Sunday night or Monday. There will have two types of runs, hard/extreme and easy/moderate. Trail leaders will be Don Walker and other Farmington locals. If you are planning on going, let Keith Jurey know.
- June 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Club Picnic – Joan and Mark Wolf have reserved the Locust site at the Oak Flat Picnic grounds. Come any time after 3:30 pm, we'll eat at 5:00. Plans are for the club to supply hamburgers and hot dogs, and members should supply a side dish. Check the website site for more information.
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> Casa Jeep Jamboree – Dixon Patrick needs to know if you plan to attend; you should arrive an hour or two early. While Casa's main objective is to sell Jeeps, this is planned to educate potential or current owners. NM4W is planning a Cedro Peak run for the following week. Watch the website for more details.
- July 30<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Denver Mile-Hi All-4-Fun Salida - The Denver Mile-Hi Jeep club holds this event annually at different locations. This year is at Salida, CO. Visit their website at [www.mhjc.org](http://www.mhjc.org) or contact Cliff Meier for more information.
- Sept 24<sup>th</sup> NMOHVA Mt Taylor Cleanup – National Trails Day – Watch the website for more information.
- Oct Moab – A trip is being planned for the first or second week of October.

**Program Chairman's Report – Sue Brady:** Sue was not present, so Cheryle Bakewell sold tickets for the 50/50 raffle.

**Historian's Report – Justin Simenson:** Justin was not present, but members were reminded to send pictures to Justin or to upload them to the clubs Picasa website.

**Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Glenn did not have anything new to report concerning the old website, except to encourage guests to fill out the on-line application. Glenn is stepping down as webmaster and Don Roy has agreed to take the position. He is developing a new website, see new business.

**Old Business:**

**Election of Officers:** Cliff Meier reminded everybody that elections will be held in July and asked anyone that is willing to hold office to let him know. Glenn Bontly is not planning to continue as Webmaster or Newsletter Editor. Don Roy is available as the Webmaster, but a new Editor is needed. He also indicated that Bob Norton has not be able to attend all the Southwest Four-Wheel Drive Association meetings, so we may need someone willing to assume all or part of the responsibilities as delegate to SWFWDA meetings. This position has not been a permanent job for some time, but is voted on prior to each SWFWDA meeting. Mark Wolf would also like someone to take on the Director of Environmental Affairs.

**New Business:**

**New Website:** It was reported than Don Roy had agreed to assume the Webmaster responsibilities from Glenn and has been working on a new website. A demo was presented after the meeting. The new website will be linked to the old one until around June 17<sup>th</sup> to give members an opportunity to become familiar with the new site. In addition to a new look, the members will be able to maintain their own information. Don indicated that it would require about \$60/year for a host the site. Glenn Bontly said that was about the same as we were currently paying.

Cliff thanked Dixon and Zelda Patrick for hosting the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned.

50/50 raffle:

Hat	Bob Provance
NMOHVA T-shirt	Lauri Rector
Winch Isolator	Tracy Bakewell
50/50 \$27.00	Mark Wolf

Hosts for Upcoming Meetings:

June	Mark and Joan Wolf – Annual Picnic
July	Carol and Bob Provance
August	Jason Lavy
September	Ilene and Phil Rodacy



## President's Report

by Cliff Meier

It's good to be back after being gone for a couple of months! Jeanne and I would like to again thank Joan Wolf, Dixon Patrick, and everyone else who pitched in to fill in for us! It looks like the club has been busy with the new website and several events.

As I'm sure you know one of our new members, Don Roy has stepped in to replace Glenn Bontly as our webmaster. Glenn has done an outstanding job for years, but decided due to lifestyle changes, becoming a full time RV'er, it was time to hand off the website. Don stepped up to the challenge. Don had designed a website for his 4X4 club in New York and was a perfect fit. There have been several e-mails sent to club members asked everyone to go the new website and verify your profile data. Glenn and Don made it very easy to do this by inserting a link in the old website that connects you to the new site. So far there have been over 40 members that have made the jump, but if you haven't, please do. The new website will be a bit of a culture change. Members will be responsible to keep their personal data up to date. Hopefully this will help keep the data current. The schedule will contain all events, runs, etc. with the ability for you to sign up for an event or run. The days of sending out e-mails to announce events/runs will soon come a close. So it is important for everyone to sign on to the new website and get familiar with it so you can stay informed on what the club is doing. The new website schedule has several overnight runs in the future for planning purposes. If you want to lead a run, send an e-mail to one of the club officers and they will put in the schedule.

A good start on the new website will be the June picnic. I sent an e-mail asking everyone to indicate on the website if they were coming to the picnic so we can get a headcount. Due to the Forest Service's open fire restrictions, it looks like we will not be able to cook hamburgers/hot dogs, but we will have great sub sandwiches. Also, when you indicate if you are coming, let us know what you bringing to share.

As I mention at the last meeting and in an earlier e-mail, selection of the NM4W'er of the Year is coming up at the June meeting, and election of next year's officers will be at the July meeting. If you are interested in an officer position you can send me an e-mail or get yourself nominated at the meeting. Yes, you can nominate yourself!

One last thing, the club has been approached by TMW Studios, who are a production company that show cases New Mexico and New Mexico car events and businesses. They currently are looking for New Mexico 4WD clubs that will be holding events within the next 3 month. They wish to film the events for their new TV program "New Mexico Rides". Their website is [www.newmexicorides.tv/](http://www.newmexicorides.tv/). It's worth going to look at. I'm talking with them to get more details and see if they would be interested in filming one of our runs, maybe the La Bajada run in June. If anyone has any other suggestions for a run let me know.



## Member Spotlight: Glen & Rebagayle Vialpando

By Joan Wolf



We welcome back the Vailpando family to NM4W. Shortly after they joined the club in 2009, some life challenges arose. Glen was laid off from Intel after a 16-year career and their CJ-7 was T-boned by a Sunday driver and totaled (thankfully, no injuries). But they persevered, and things slowly got better. After a one-year layoff, Glen was rehired at Intel and he purchased a '98 TJ on Craigslist so that the family could return to four-wheeling. Most impressively, during those uncertain times, Rebagayle managed to enroll at CNM and earn her nursing degree!

The Vialpandos learned about NM4W through their long-time friends, the Sierras (Jack, Stella, and Rick). In fact, they wheeled and camped with the infamous “Sierra club” at the Chile Challenge long before joining the club. The trails were fun, but to Glen the high point of the Chile Challenge was Stella’s fantastic home cooking, “Stella even makes tortilla chips from scratch!” Along with good memories of the beautiful Las Cruces canyons, Rebagayle remembers freezing on the trail until 10 p.m. because of ‘breakage’. Not necessarily breakage on Jack’s or Rick’s vehicles—but when there are many Sierra nephews, friends, cousins, stuff happens resulting in breakage, getting towed out in 2WD, etc.

Glen has liked four-wheeling “since he was born” according to Rebagayle. Glen thinks he was at least 10. His family lived on 80 acres in Red Desert, Wyoming, and the bus stop was 6 miles away on a rough, rutted dirt road. At age 10, Glen drove the family 4WD truck in all kinds of inclement Wyoming weather and road conditions. After picking up two classmates enroute to the bus stop, they’d pile into the 4WD school bus. Maybe not PC in today’s world—but sounds like fun for 10-year olds!!

Rebagayle had never gone four-wheeling until she started dating Glen. She liked four-wheeling right away, maybe because like Glen, she’s a troubleshooter. Spotting, picking a line, that’s troubleshooting in the four-wheeling world.

They bought their highly-modified blue '98 TJ from a young Rio Rancho man. For Rebagayle, the selling point of the TJ was Glen’s comment, “I won’t have to do anything.” Glen swears he meant “I won’t have to do anything MAJOR.” It came with ARB’s front and rear, a long arm lift, and lots of other gearhead stuff.

Glen has added Viair onboard air, Spectra air intake, new tires, and welded a Hi-lift jack mount. The recent Farmington/Glade trip put the Jeep to the test. It



handled well on the innumerable ledges, boulders, and steep hills. Of course, Glen is strategizing the next NON-MAJOR modifications—a roll bar and steering linkage. Much as he likes the TJ, Glen is realizing that “with two growing boys and the new dog, we’re outgrowing it already!” The Vialpando’s also have two 4Runners, a ’97 that’s used for hunting and a ’98, Rebagayle’s daily driver.



The Vialpando’s have lived in Rio Rancho for many years and home school Gabriel, 11, and Gavin, 10. Glen’s father was a jack-of-all-trades, mostly a mechanic, and the family moved frequently. Born in Los Alamos, Glen lived in New Mexico (Tierra Amarilla, Los Ojos, and Bernalillo), Wyoming (Casper, Rawlins, and Wamsutta), the Denver area, and Tucson. Glen’s most exotic childhood home was Trinidad & Tobago, an island off of Venezuela. Moving was fun for awhile, but when the family moved to Bernalillo in his freshman year, Glen vowed to attend the same school for all four years. He’s a proud graduate of Bernalillo High School.

Rebagayle is from Gallup and moved to Rio Rancho at age 15. Raised by her grandparents, she enjoys photography and the outdoors, especially camping with Glen and the boys. Their newest family member is a 10-month old Sharpei named Poseidon.

Glen is a Manufacturing Technician at Intel. He operates, repairs, and troubleshoots various tools in Fab 11x. The work schedule is tough--7 p.m. to 7 a.m., three 12-hour shifts one week, four 12-hour shifts the following week. He hopes to get on dayshift someday.

Rebagayle earned her Associates Degree in Nursing on April 29 from CNM. Next up is taking the board certification tests to become an R.N. Her areas of interest are pediatrics and the ER. Both areas require thinking on your feet and using critical thinking skills to provide good patient care. Rebagayle hopes to find work at the new Presbyterian Hospital opening in Rio Rancho in October.

The Vialpandos are an outdoors family. They all enjoy fishing, hunting, and camping. Gabe and Gavin are involved in Scouts and they like four-wheeling. On the Farmington trip, they enjoyed looking at the unusual rock formations and hanging on during some of the rock crawling.

Favorite and future runs? Glen’s favorite trail is “anything that challenges or scares me.” Rebagayle likes Las Cruces, Farmington, and Red River. On their To-Do list are Silverton and Salida, two places they’ve never seen off-highway.

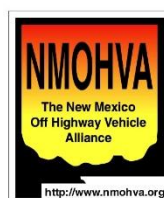
The Vialpandos are enjoying family-friendly NM4W. Glen likes that he can bring his kids on trail runs and not worry about shenanigans. Rebagayle appreciates that people help each other--even outside of the club activities. As a way of getting more involved, Glen is willing to run for the Program Chair position during upcoming elections.

We’re glad the Vialpandos are back in the club and on the trail. Be sure to say hi to this quiet, friendly, down-to-earth couple and their boys when you see them.

## NM4W Officers

<p><b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:President@nm4w.org">President@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:Vice-president@nm4w.org">Vice-president@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Secretary</b> Jeanne Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Secretary@nm4w.org">Secretary@nm4w.org</a></p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:Treasurer@nm4w.org">Treasurer@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Program Chairman</b> Sue Brady 898-6449 <a href="mailto:Program-chairman@nm4w.org">Program-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Historian</b> Justin Simenson 299-6982 <a href="mailto:Historian@nm4w.org">Historian@nm4w.org</a></p>
<p><b>Trip Chairman</b> Tony Louderbough 232-0345 <a href="mailto:Trip-chairman@nm4w.org">Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Environmental Affairs</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales  
31 La Mirada  
Belen, NM 87002





# Trail Tales



July 1, 2011

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From June 11, 2011

by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held June 11<sup>th</sup> at Oak Flats Picnic area. Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 6:55pm.

**Guests:** Mark Mullins and Matje Smith, Sandy McIntosh, Maggie Welch, Ashfaq Ali, David and Mary Ann Entz.

**Members Present:** Tracy and Cheryle Bakewell, Glenn and Jan Bontly, Paul Caskey, Leon and Marcia Duggar, Nick and Sara Frasch, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed and Lyn Kausche, Jason and Sara Lavy, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Dixon and Zelda Patrick, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Phil and Ilene Rodacy, Tedd Romero and Judy Sandoval, Don Roy, Frank G and Beth Whiston, Frank R and Donna Whiston, Mark and Joan Wolf, Mark Woolfson and Faith Dwyer, Tahoe Zahn.

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

**Treasurer's Report – Jason Lavy:** Jason reported he had received some money at the meeting, but did not have a balance to report.

**Vice President Report – Dixon Patrick:** Dixon indicated he had no fines.

### Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Wolf:

Santa Fe National Forest: The website indicates that the DEIS will now be released August 2011.

Ken Salazar has announced the Department of Interior, BLM had decided not to pursue Wild Lands designation on lands it believes meets the wilderness criteria. This came after Congress had voted to withhold funds for the purpose.

Rio Puerco: DEIS will be out soon.

HR1581 deals with the way Wilderness Study areas are managed. Some regions manage wilderness study areas as wilderness, even if it fails the criteria or the bill does not pass. HR1581 would require these lands be released.

Keep up the fight. Keep public lands open.



**Trip Chairman's Report – Tony Louderbough:** Tony was not present, but reports were made by others.

Past Events:

May 13<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> Farmington New Mexico – Keith Jurey reported there were 16 vehicles, not including the 4 leaders from Farmington. Don Walker, an associate member of NM4W, and 3 of his friends were the leaders. On Saturday they broke into 4 smaller groups based on level of difficulty and interest. Sunday the runs were shorter so people could get home. Everybody appeared to have a good time, no one broke, and there was discussion on doing this run again next year.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

June 12<sup>th</sup> Jemez Cat Mesa – Jeff Boggs is leading a trip to Cat Mesa. Meet at Walatowa Visitors Center at 8:00 and trip will leave at 8:30.

June 18<sup>th</sup> La Bajada Hill – Cliff Meier is leading a run to La Bajada Hill. Meet at the gas station at Hwy 550 and 528 in Rio Rancho next to the Wendy's. Run leaves at 9:00. This is an easy run up the Bajada escarpment on the old Route 66.

June 26<sup>th</sup> Jemez Paliza Canyon – Jeff Boggs is leading a trip to Paliza Canyon. Meet at Walatowa Visitors Center at 8:00 and trip will leave at 8:30. See website for more details.

July 9<sup>th</sup> July Meeting at Bob and Carol Provance's. See website for more detail.

July 23<sup>rd</sup> Casa Westside Jeep Jamboree – Event starts at 10:00, members should arrive at 9:00. See website or contact Dixon Patrick for more details.

July 30<sup>th</sup> Cedro Peak – Run to follow Jeep Jamboree to provide an opportunity for people who attended the Jeep Jam to experience an organized run. Watch website for more details (or cancellation due to forest closure).

July 30<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Denver Mile-Hi All-4-Fun Salida - The Denver Mile-Hi Jeep Club holds this event annually at different locations. This year is at Salida, CO. Visit their website [www.mhjc.org](http://www.mhjc.org) or contact Cliff Meier for more information.

Aug 6<sup>th</sup> NMOHVA BR Fjord Trail Cleanup – Visit our website for more information.

Aug 20<sup>th</sup> August Meeting at the Lavy's – Visit our website for more information.

Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> Moab's Red Rock Labor Day Safari – Visit our website for more information.

Sept 24<sup>th</sup> NMOHVA Mt Taylor Cleanup – National Trails Day – Watch the website for more information.

Oct Moab – A trip is being planned for the first or second week of October maybe.

**Program Chairman's Report – Sue Brady:** Sue was not present, so Tracy Bakewell sold tickets for the 50/50 raffle.

**Historian's Report – Justin Simenson:** Justin was not present, but members were reminded to send trip pictures to Justin or to upload them to the club's Picasa website.

**Webmaster & Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Glenn and Don Roy indicated the change to the new web site should occur in the next week or so. If there is any information on old web site that members want that isn't also on the new website, they should copy it now. Glenn also indicated that he would not continue as Editor of the newsletter for the next year.

### **Old Business:**

**Election of Officers:** Cliff Meier reminded everyone that election of officers is at the July meeting. There is a need for volunteers for officers for the 2011-2012 year. Let Cliff know if you are willing to fill a position. Really needed are trip chairman and newsletter editor. Bob Norton has been the club delegate to the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association, but may not be able to attend all the meetings. If someone would like that position or would possibly fill in for those Bob can't attend, let Cliff know.

**New Website:** The final transition from the old website to the new website will occur in the next week or so. No need to change your "shortcut" as the new website will still be at [www.nm4w.org](http://www.nm4w.org).

### **New Business:**

**TWW Studios:** TWW Studios has contacted the club. They are filming various wheeling events around state for TV and would like us to participate. They may come on the La Bajada run if there is enough participation and other factors work out. Is the club interested in participating, and if so, are there seats available in vehicles planning on attending? It was decided if this is something we are interested in, Cliff could continue discussions.

**The Crossing of America:** Cliff received an email from the Spirit of Liberty Foundation that has some patriotically decorated Jeeps that are to Cross the United States visiting 43 states and the District of Columbia. They are starting from the USS Midway and ending at the USS Intrepid Aircraft carrier by Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of 9/11. They are looking for individual or groups that are interested in making pledges or donations, or would like to participate in some way. Cliff did not have any information on events they may have in Albuquerque, but they are due here on June 24<sup>th</sup>. The discussion was basically there was not enough information and should Cliff get more he will contact club members.

**Southwest Four-wheel Drive Association Elections:** New Mexico 4-Wheelers are members of SWFWDA along with 11 other clubs. Their purpose is to encourage 4-wheeling and to work on land-use issues. They will be holding elections and need volunteers for Vice President, Treasurer, Events Chairman, Director of Communications, and Webmaster. They are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in running, notify David Teague at [president@swfwda.org](mailto:president@swfwda.org), or Cliff and Jeanne Meier.

**Lifetime Membership for NM4W:** Cliff indicated a member had asked if the club would consider implementing a lifetime membership. It was pointed out that part of the dues go to other organizations on a 'per member' basis. The prevailing opinion was that the club did not have a sufficient revenue stream. A motion was made to not have a lifetime membership and motion passed.

New Members: Mark Mullin had five points. A motion was made that Mark be accepted as a member of the club. Motion passed.

Cliff thanked Joan and Mark Wolf for all the work they did for the picnic. Meeting adjourned 6:30.

50/50 Raffle:

Mark Wolf	\$46.00
Tracy Bakewell	Teraflex Disconnects
Paul Caskey	50% Discount Certificate
Keith Jurey	Discount Tire hat
Keith Jurey	Hood latches
Judy Sandoval	Hat

Hosts for Upcoming Meetings:

July	Bob and Carol Provance
August	Jason and Sara Lavy
September	Phil and Ilene Rodacy



**President's Report**  
by Cliff Meier

As the club's fiscal year draws to a close the end of July, it is time for the officer elections at our July meeting (I know I have been harping on this for last couple of months!). It is very important to the health of a club that all members be active in it. One of the best ways to do this is to serve as an officer. Even though we have nominations for all positions except for Historian, most of the nominations are for the existing officers or club members that have served several times. We also need a volunteer for the newsletter editor position (see Glenn's article below for additional information). I know the club has "new" blood out there that would like to serve, so step up! You can nominate yourself by e-mailing me, or in person at the meeting. Also, be sure to come to the July meeting so you vote and be part of the process to select next year's officers.

It's unfortunate with the fire season being as bad as it is. As I write this, the Jemez is burning in the general area we were to have a run today (Jun 26<sup>th</sup>), the majority of the areas we run in the national forests are closed (and rightly so). This gives us the opportunity to find new areas to run, or activities like the Jeep Jam to become involved with.

For those members that didn't or weren't able to come on the La Bajada run, you missed a fun run. TWW Studios joined us and filmed the run for their New Mexico Rides program. The video will be shown on KYNM channels 30.1 (My Family TV) & 30.2 (Tuff TV) and included on TWW Studio's website, [www.newmexicorides.tv](http://www.newmexicorides.tv). I don't have a time or date, but will pass it on when I get it.

If you haven't signed on to the new website, please do. Don Roy has done an outstanding job on it. It is really interactive with new stuff on it almost every day. The latest information on club activities will be shown there and not normally e-mailed in the future as we have done in the past. If we have short notice activities, such as runs (or cancellations), they can still be announced by mass club e-mail, but this will not be the normal process for scheduled run information. The website has the ability to display each club member's points toward the annual awards for most active member/family unit and who has led the most runs. The officers would like some feedback on if the

website should show the points earned by each member throughout the year, or should we wait until the end of the year so the awards winners are a surprise as we do currently. I'll bring this up at the July meeting, but if you can't attend the meeting let me know your thoughts on this.

## **Cat Mesa Trail Ride**

By Jeff Boggs

On Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, the New Mexico 4-Wheelers hosted a ride in the Jemez Mountains. At 8:00 am, 4x4's began arriving at the Walatowa Gas Station and Visitors Center on Highway 4 in the Jemez Mountains. Sign up, air down, disconnect, and a brief meeting took place, and 24 vehicles pulled out for a short pavement drive to the dirt road that leads to the switchbacks up the side of "The Cat".

Cat Mesa is the high mesa to the east of Jemez Springs, NM. It starts with juniper and pinon pines growing out of sandstone and volcanic cliffs. The switchbacks begin the climb to the top of Cat Mesa on the south end. Once on top, the long line of vehicles followed a rocky primitive road that works its way north along the "back" of the Cat. This is 4-low country, extremely rocky, with lots of turns through all the short junipers and pinons. The road is marked with cairns, and the further up the road one goes the easier it is to follow.

Cliff and Jeanne Meier were the tail gunners for the day. Thanks for your help. Cliff radioed to the trail leader to stop. There were several vehicles having mechanical issues. A CJ overheating, another vehicle would not start. After some attempts were made to get the vehicles going again, the choice was made by the drivers and some friends to turn around and return to the highway. We were early into this trek, and this was the best idea, as they had 6 or so 4x4's with them.

So the now leaner and meaner group started up the road. About 18 of us were left, and we slowly got into taller trees, but not that tall! There are several ledges on this road and this makes this scenic road a lot of fun also. A tow rope appeared several times to help get someone up and over the top.

Lunch at 12:00 noon, but shade was at a premium. This was a good time for friends to visit and a time to meet new folks that really enjoy seeing the beautiful backcountry of New Mexico. Everybody was relaxed and having a good time. The dogs seemed to enjoy the outdoors, too.

After lunch, we began to see a ponderosa or two, as the elevation increased. Dry conditions made for the famous Jemez pumice dust once we got into the tall ponderosa pines. Hope it rains soon and often, as this is one dry forest.

One last stop near the end of the ride had some good views. Then it was back to civilization. We aired back up at the junction of Highway 4 and Forest Road 10. We said our goodbyes and decided to do this trail again in the future. Thanks to everyone for making this a very easy ride to lead. An easygoing attitude goes a long way.









## **NM4W Website and Newsletter**

By Glenn Bontly

As you know, the nm4w.org domain transitioned from the “old” website to the “new” website a couple of weeks ago. And with this, my final issue of the Trail Tales, I’d like to say that it has been a real pleasure serving as the Club’s Webmaster and Newsletter Editor for the past several years. I truly appreciate all of your contributions to the Trail Tales each month, and the positive feedback you’ve provided me on both the website and the newsletter.

Don Roy did an incredible job in building the new website and making numerous refinements over the past few of months. I hope you will all use the new site to its fullest potential, and show Don the same support you’ve shown me.

Unfortunately, as of this writing, we still don’t have a volunteer for Newsletter Editor. Along with the website, the Trail Tales is an important source of information for our members and prospective members. With the vast amount of information available on the new web site, I’ve heard talk about doing away with the newsletter. I think this would be a mistake; the newsletters serve as valuable historical documents. As I stated in my article in the May 2011 issue, this is a relatively easy job and it really doesn’t take much time. I estimate I spend no more than a couple of hours a month on the newsletter. Officers members submit articles, I cut ‘n paste then into my template, maybe pull some pics off of the Picasa site, print the few hard copies I mail out each month, and post the .pdf file to the web site. I would be happy to discuss this in more detail if you are interested. The new Editor will need to be identified by the July meeting, which is less than 2 weeks away, so please give this serious consideration.

## NM4W Officers

<p><b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:President@nm4w.org">President@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:Vice-president@nm4w.org">Vice-president@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Secretary</b> Jeanne Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Secretary@nm4w.org">Secretary@nm4w.org</a></p>
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<p><b>Trip Chairman</b> Tony Louderbough 232-0345 <a href="mailto:Trip-chairman@nm4w.org">Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Environmental Affairs</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>

Trail Tales  
P.O. Box 90154  
Albuquerque, NM 87109





# Trail Tales



August 1, 2011

Official Newsletter of the New Mexico 4-  
Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From July 9, 2011  
by Jeanne Meier



The meeting was held July 9<sup>th</sup> at the home of Bob and Carol Provance.

Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 6:20pm.

**Guests:** Jack Rutledge and John Moore.

**Members Present:** Cody Bakewell, Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Glenn & Jan Bontly, Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Ron & Becca Hyman, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed and Lyn Kausche, Jason and Sara Lavy, Cliff and Jeanne Meier, Mark Mullin III, Dixon and Zelda Patrick, Bob and Carol Provance, Jeff and Lauri Rector, Don Roy, Frank G and Beth Whiston, Tahoe Zahn.

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

**Treasurer's Report – Jason Lavy:** Jason reported a balance of \$3286.38.

**Vice President Report – Dixon Patrick:** Dixon indicated he had no fines. He explained to the guests what fines were and also reviewed the points system.

**Director Environmental Affairs Report – Mark Wolf:**

Mark was not present and no one else had anything to report.

Keep up the fight. Keep public lands open.

**Trip Chairman's Report – Tony Louderbough:** Tony was not present but reports were made by others.

### Past Events:

June 12<sup>th</sup>

Jemez Cat Mesa – Jeff Boggs led the trip to Cat Mesa. There was a large group to start but a group dropped out after one of their vehicles overheated. Those that continued had a great run. One vehicle lost 4-wheel drive and another had difficulty with the locker but everyone made it through.



June 18<sup>th</sup> La Bajada Hill – Cliff Meier led the run up La Bajada Hill. A cameraman and another person from TWW Studios rode with two NM4W members and interviewed several other members during the lunch stop. TWW is filming things concerning wheeling around New Mexico. A link to a short clip is available on the club website.

Upcoming Events: Check the website for details.

July 16<sup>th</sup> Tank Trap – Pending lifting of travel restrictions.

July 23<sup>rd</sup> Casa Westside Jeep Jamboree – Event starts at 10:00, members should arrive at 9:00. See website or contact Dixon Patrick for more details. Dixon had flyers for members to distribute.

July 30<sup>th</sup> Cedro Peak – Pending a lifting of travel restrictions, a run will follow the Jeep Jamboree to provide an opportunity for people that attended the talks to experience an organized run. Watch website for more details or cancellation due to forest closure.

July 30<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Denver Mile-Hi All-4-Fun Salida - The Denver Mile-Hi Jeep club holds this event annually at different locations. This year the All-4-Fun will be in Salida, CO. Visit their website, mhjc.org or contact Cliff Meier for more information.

Aug 6<sup>th</sup> NMOHVA BR Fjord Trail Cleanup – Visit our website for more information.

Aug 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Silverton Colorado Run – Cliff Meier is leading runs in Silverton beginning Friday Aug 12<sup>th</sup>. He is hoping to stay at Mineral Creek campground (first come first serve) but there are two or three commercial campgrounds in the area. Trails will leave from the Silverton Visitor's Center, west side of town, at 9:00. Cliff is going to Silverton after All-4-Fun Salida so any questions should be via email or cell phone.

Aug 20<sup>th</sup> August Meeting at the Lavy's – Visit our website for more information.

Sept 3-5 Moab's Red Rock Labor Day Safari – Visit our website for more information.

Sept 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Conejos River Fall Colors run – Frank G Whiston is leading runs in the Conejos area. This is for Members only. See website for more information.

Sept 24<sup>th</sup> NMOHVA Mt Taylor Cleanup – National Trails Day – Watch the website for more information.

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> Palomas Gap – Watch website for more information.

**Program Chairman's Report – Sue Brady:** Sue was not present so Tracy Bakewell sold tickets for the 50/50 raffle. Tracy also had all the clothing, some stickers and the license plates.

**Historian's Report – Justin Simenson:** Justin was not present. Cliff indicated that Justin did not want to continue as Historian so a volunteer is needed for the upcoming year.

**Web Master - Don Roy:** The new website is up and running.

**Editor's Report – Glenn Bontly:** Glenn is not going to be the editor for the upcoming year. A volunteer is needed to fill this position. Phil Rodacy has volunteered to fill the position temporarily but plans to retire in December and move out of the area.

**Old Business:**

New Mexico 4-Wheeler of the Year: Dixon Patrick won the award for the 2010-2011 year. Cliff Meier presented Dixon with the plaque.

**New Business:**

Member Points on Website: Cliff Meier indicated that selected officers had attended a meeting on the new website. During that meeting the issue of whether member points should be visible to only that member or to all members. After a brief discussion a motion was made that the points be visible to all members. Motion passed.

SWFWDA Summer Quarterly 2012: A quorum was not present at the summer quarterly so selecting the fall quarterly had to be done via teleconference. Wichita 4X4 will be hosting the event at Disney OK. See SWFWDA.org for link. NM4W has typically hosted every other summer quarterly making next summer our year. After discussion a motion was made to host the 2012 quarterly. Motion passed. It was suggested that we hold the event in Salida Colorado or Fairplay Colorado. Cliff asked for someone to coordinate the event.

Election of Officers: Cliff indicated that there was a candidate for every elected office except for Historian. No one volunteered for that office. Lauri Rector volunteered for the secretary office so Jeanne Meier withdrew her name. All offices with one candidate were elected by acclamation. Tracy Bakewell was elected to the Program Chairman's position.

Office	New Officers
President	Cliff Meier
Vice-President	Dixon Patrick
Secretary	Lauri Rector
Treasurer	Jason Lavy
Trip Chairman	Mark Wolf
Program Chairman	Tracy Bakewell
Historian	None
Director of Environmental Affairs	Mark Wolf
SWFWDA Delegate	Bob Norton

Cliff thanked Carol and Bob Provance for hosting the meeting.

Meeting adjourned 7:00.

50/50 Raffle:

Tahoe Zahn	\$27.50
Ron Hyman	Driving isolator kit
Bob Provance	Discount Tire hat
Tahoe Zahn	\$10.00 gift certificate for soft side cooler
Keith Jurey	Warn bag

Hosts for Upcoming Meetings:

August	Jason Lavy
September	Ilene and Phil Rodacy



## President's Report

by Cliff Meier

As the club's fiscal year draws to a close the end of July, it is time for the officer elections at our July meeting (I know I have been harping on this for last couple of months!). It is very important to health of a club that all members be active in it. One of the best ways to do this is to serve as an officer. Even though we have nominations for all positions except for Historian, most of the nominations are for the existing officers or club members that have served several times. I know club has "new" blood out there that would like to serve, so step up! You can nominate yourself by e-mailing me or at the meeting. Also, be sure to come to the July meeting so you can vote and be part of the process to select next year's officers.

It's unfortunate with the fire season being as bad as it is, as I write this the Jemez is burning in the general area we were to have a run today, the majority of the areas we run in the national forests are closed (rightly so). This gives us the opportunity to find new areas to run or activities like the Jeep Jam to become involved with.

For those members that didn't or weren't able to come on the La Bajada run you missed a fun run. TWW Studios joined us and filmed the run for their New Mexico Rides program. The video will be shown on KYNM channels 30.1 (My Family TV) & 30.2 (Tuff TV) and included on TWW Studio's website, [www.newmexicorides.tv](http://www.newmexicorides.tv). I don't have a time or date but will pass it on when I get it.

If you haven't signed on to the new website, please do. Don Roy has done an outstanding job on it. It is really interactive with new stuff on it almost every day. The latest information on club activities will be shown there and not normally e-mailed in the future as we have done in the past. If we have short notice activities, such as runs, they can still be announced by mass club e-mail but this will not be the normal process for scheduled run information. The website has the ability to display each club member's point toward the annual awards for most active member/family unit and who has leas the most runs. The officers would like some feedback on if the website should show the points earned by each member throughout the year or should we wait until the end of the year so the awards winners are a surprise as we do currently. I'll bring this up at the July meeting but if you can't attend the meeting let me know your thoughts on this.

# From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Frank Wiston

## Life After The Fire

As of July 12, 2011 the Las Conchas Fire has consumed nearly 150,000 acres of one of the most popular and heavily used forested areas in New Mexico including significant portions of the Santa Fe National Forest, the Valles Caldera National Preserve, and Bandelier National Monument. And the fire is still burning! If the 2009 fire down in the Manzano Mountains is any indicator, it will be a long time before the public is allowed access back into the burned area. The Forest Service usually puts an emergency closure on a burned area because the dead trees are a hazard--they just fall over without warning and an amazing number of people are killed that way. Typically, there will be an emergency closure to keep the entire public out. There are things that we can do to shorten that period however.

If the Forest Service does salvage sales the emergency closure should pass quickly because the dead trees will be removed in a season or two at the most--but the FS will still want to limit public access during that time. There could be 4wd roads restored within a couple of seasons if the Forest Service is cooperative and they do their salvage sales promptly. They should do the reforestation in the third or fourth season. That will be the critical time for preserving the 4wd roads because there will be people who want to use the fire as an excuse to re-forest the area without roads and trails. The radical environmentalist will try to obstruct the salvage sales, if they are successful at that then it will be a mess for a long time.

If you have been to the new NM4W website recently, you will see that the Espanola Ranger District will host a meeting in the near future for those that would like to help rehabilitate the trails affected by the fire. It is highly important that we engage in this meeting. Actual work in the field won't be for some time but we need to be there and heavily represented. The FS has made an effort to include the public here and the club has the opportunity to provide input as to how the FS handles rehabilitation of the forest. Keep an eye on the website for details on this meeting and try to attend.





## **Hazards of Walking Through a Recently Burned Forest or Reasons to Stay Out of a Fire area**

By Jennifer A. Sublett

Volunteer Coordinator for the Santa Fe National Forest

A recently burned forest is a very dangerous place to venture. The lack of vegetation in the burned area will contribute to high run off from almost any rainstorm or thunderstorm in the fire area. It is possible to see peak flows **10 times larger** than the past normal. This is a significant danger for anyone in the fire area, in particular in drainage bottom location where many roads are located.

The fire has weakened or killed a great number of trees and they could fall any time with no advanced warning. Trees that still have green needles may have had their root system burned away, and may topple over in a slight breeze without warning. This is especially true for spruce trees. Burned branches may also fall from standing trees.

Trees that were consumed completely in the fire leave a “stump hole” and this may not be visible because of ash and dirt. It is very easy to break an ankle if you step in one of these. They may also still hold hot embers which can burn you.

On hillsides, where root systems that held rocks in place are now burned away, rocks may give way and roll down the hill. Footing can be tricky where the rocks are now loose.

Ground-nesting wasps can be disturbed by the fire and become quite agitated.

It is better to wait one or two years before walking through a burned forest. And even then you must be very cautious. Most of the weakest trees will have fallen in the first year, but snags will continue to fall for many years to come.

Lastly, agency personnel will have people and equipment working in the fire area for some time. The combination of the roads and work traffic adds a level of congestion which adds to hazards in the area.

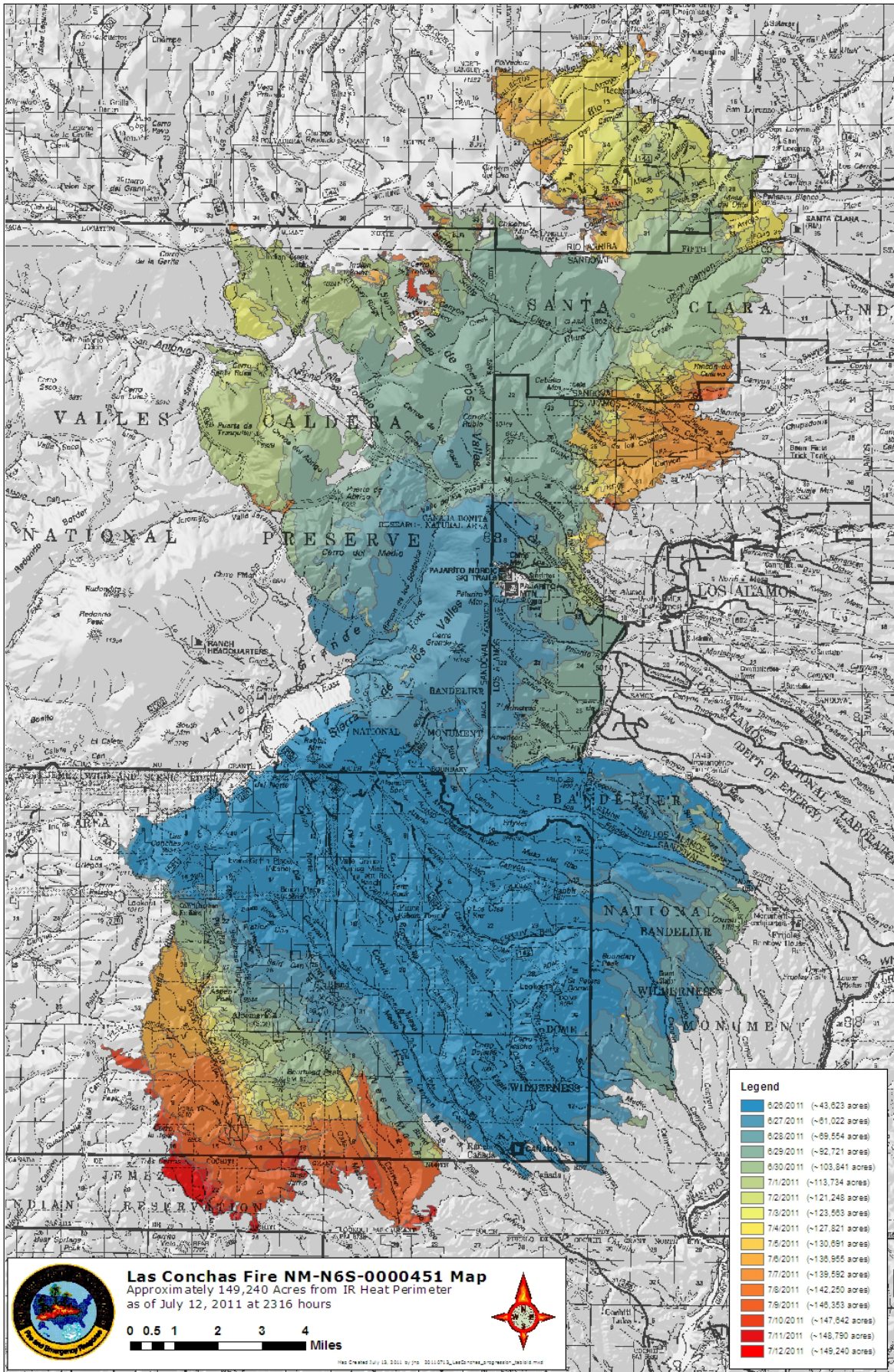
Certain areas of the burned forest will experience radical change as a result of flooding, erosion and mudslides. With mudslides, it is not a matter of “if”, but it is “when”.

These issues are significant and will likely lead to the existing access restrictions continuing for some time.

Please refer to the emergency Area Closure Orders and Fire Restrictions on the Santa Fe National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/conditions/index.html>; or call 1-877-971-3473; contact your local ranger district or the Forest Supervisor’s office for current information.

Espanola Ranger District: 505-753-7331

Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District: 505-757-6121



## NM4W Officers

<p><b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:President@nm4w.org">President@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:Vice-president@nm4w.org">Vice-president@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Secretary</b> Jeanne Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Secretary@nm4w.org">Secretary@nm4w.org</a></p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:Treasurer@nm4w.org">Treasurer@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Program Chairman</b> Sue Brady 898-6449 <a href="mailto:Program-chairman@nm4w.org">Program-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Historian</b> Justin Simenson 299-6982 <a href="mailto:Historian@nm4w.org">Historian@nm4w.org</a></p>
<p><b>Trip Chairman</b> Tony Louderbough 232-0345 <a href="mailto:Trip-chairman@nm4w.org">Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Environmental Affairs</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>SWFWDA Delegate</b>  “Your Name Here” Please Volunteer!</p>







# Trail Tales



September 1, 2011

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From August 20, 2011  
by Lauri Rector



The meeting was held at the home of Jason & Sara Lavy  
Meeting commenced promptly at about 6:08 pm

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Jared Mosher, Jennifer Jacobs, Scot Moyer, Craig Courtright & Vicki Medlin, and John Moore

**MEMBERS PRESENT (those that noted their presence on the signup sheet and those I remember seeing):** Cody Bakewell, Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Jack & Cathy Dickey, Leon Dugger, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Mark Mullin III and his friend Andrea, Dixon Patrick, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Don Roy and his friend Janie, Frank & Beth Whiston, Tahoe Zahn. Mark and Joan Wolf and Jason & Sara Lavy were also present.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** Forgot meeting minutes. Motion made to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Corrected officers list from last month - Mark Wolf was shown as Environment and Trip Chairman – he is trip chairman.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** \$2,994.26 in the bank

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick:** Glenn Bontly was fine \$0.25 for his problems in Silverton. Dixon explained points for prospective members and the prize for the most points for members. (*Note: Full story elsewhere in the newsletter.*)

### **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:**

1. Carson National Forest Releases Questa Ranger District Travel Management Draft Environmental Assessment comment period has closed. I and NMOHVA have sent in substantive comments, the decision will impact the roads and trails around Red River, NM.
2. The BLM posted a bad email address for comments on the Glade. As a result of a letter from NMOHVA to Garry Torres, Field Manager for the Farmington BLM office, the scoping comment period has been extended to September 30.

As a result of the Bureau of Land Management's switch over to Microsoft Outlook, the e-mail address that was printed in the NOI for the Glade RMP Amendment/EA has been changed. Please send comments to: [nm\\_ffo\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:nm_ffo_comments@blm.gov)



The public comment period will be open through September 30, 2011. All comments must be submitted either in writing or mailed to the Farmington Field Office, 1235 La Plata Highway, Farmington, NM 87401, sent by e-mail from the BLM Website at [www.blm.gov/nm](http://www.blm.gov/nm), or emailed direct to [nm\\_ffo\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:nm_ffo_comments@blm.gov). Please include the word "Glade" in your subject line. Should you have questions please contact the Farmington Field Office at 505-599-8900.

If you had sent comments previously, please re-submit! If you have not sent in comments, you now have time to do so.

3. SFNF: Current Status as of July 18, 2011: We (SFNF) now expect to publish the FEIS and ROD this summer, around August 2011. The ROD and FEIS will form the basis for the Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM).

4. Cedro Project: NMOHVA is looking for a Dozer Operator to make a trail head parking area and Welding Volunteer to do some welding on some gates in remote areas. NMOHVA will provide the dozer. NMOHVA is looking for someone who wants to play with their under-hood welder or has a portable welder that they can bring and use for the backcountry welding job. Email Frank Whiston at [land@nm4w.org](mailto:land@nm4w.org) if you can volunteer for either of these jobs.

5. Colorado State Parks, Feds to Enforce Permit Requirements on Plated Vehicles  
Monday, August 1, 2011 — Colorado Parks and Wildlife has announced its intent to enforce an existing OHV permit requirement for all licensed, plated motor vehicles operated on designated OHV routes in the state of Colorado. This existing provision in the law has not been enforced in the past (since 1991). Previously, only the parts of the law requiring a registration or non-resident permit for unlicensed off-highway vehicles have been enforced. Visit <http://staythetrail.org/news/?p=643> for more details.

**What you need to purchase under the loosest interpretation of the law:**

If you are not a resident of Colorado (That's us):

Regardless of whether your vehicle is licensed or not, you need an OHV permit from Colorado Parks and Wildlife to operate your vehicle on any road or trail open to off-highway vehicles.

Permits and registrations are different. Permits do NOT require a VIN number. Registrations require a VIN number.

Non-Resident OHV Permit may be purchased online at the following link:

<https://parksstore.state.co.us/p-6-non-resident-ohv-permit.aspx>

PLEASE NOTE: The 2012 Non-Resident OHV permits are valid until March 31, 2012.

Price: \$25.25

***KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!! KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!***

**TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mark Wolf:**

PAST EVENTS:

**July 16<sup>th</sup>:** Tank Trap – Cancelled because of the fire

**July 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Casa Westside Jeep Jamboree - Dixon Patrick reported – 11 Jeeps in attendance.

The Casa people were happy we were there. Good turn out with non-club member vehicles and spectators. Some club business cards were passed out.

**July 30<sup>th</sup>:** Cedro Peak – Dixon Patrick reported - 3 newbies on the trail (and I think that all three of us were together with me in the middle). This was the club's 1<sup>st</sup> trail ride after the fire closures. The new people learned a lot about driving their Jeep.

**July 30<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>:** Denver Mile-Hi All-4-Fun Salida – there was no discussion on this trip

**Aug 6<sup>th</sup>: NMOHVA BR Fjord Trail Cleanup – Frank Whiston reported** – This is memorial clean-up for an environmental enthusiast and past organizer of clean-ups on the mountain. 37 bags of trash were collected. Jeff Boggs hauled them down to the camp and filled the dumpster. Clean-up was done by lunch time, so there was a run to La Mosca peak that afternoon. Everyone camped there except one guest who could only do a day trip.

**Aug 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>: Silverton Colorado Run – Cliff Meier reported** – 5 vehicles all-together. Drove up on Thursday, wheeled on Friday and Saturday – some drove home on Sunday, some stayed and wheeled on Sunday and drive home on Monday. Glenn Bontly had problems; his trip took on a whole different agenda from everyone else's. However, during the meeting he called Don Roy to let him know that they were back home with the Jeep and all seems to have been fixed correctly.

UPCOMING EVENTS (check website for up-to-date information):

**Aug 27<sup>th</sup>:** **Jemez** – Mark Wolf – meet at Walatowa Visitor Center north of Jemez Pueblo at 9:00 AM. Stock vehicles are OK.

**Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>:** **Moab's Red Rock Labor Day Camp-Out** – visit our website for more information.

**Sept 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>:** **Conejos River Fall Colors Run** – Frank G Whiston is leading runs in the Conejos area for fall color viewing. This is for Members only. See website for more information.

**Sept 24<sup>th</sup>:** **Gordy's Hill** – Jeff Boggs (small tires) & Jeff Rector (big tires) watch the website for more information – will be starting from Staging Area at Gordy's Hill.

**Sept 28<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>:** **Gila Area Trail Ride and Campout** – Pat & Sue Brady – special provisions Are necessary. See the website and make sure to contact Pat or Sue with any questions. This is a campout that changes location daily.

**Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>** **Palomas Gap** – Jeff Boggs – members only - watch website for more information

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** Tracy listed all of the club paraphernalia that he had with him. It was mentioned how well the front license plates are noticed by others.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT:** We need a volunteer for this position. In the meantime, if you take pictures, please be sure to post them to Picasa.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** He has added the ability for us to upload our videos. Another update to our fantastical web-site is that points are now being tracked on the website.

**EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** Not present. We do need someone for this position, Phil is only temporary. But, we do thank Phil for taking over this position for the time being.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Dues were due August 1<sup>st</sup>. We are in grace period until 9/1/11. **Pay your dues now.**

Summer Quarterly 2012 – Fairplay is not available due to the State Fair, and the fairgrounds are all booked up for August 2012 already. Silverton (3 times ago) and Salida (2 times ago) are being considered. Recreation Center at Kendall Mountain in Silverton - \$1,000 1<sup>st</sup> day and \$800 each day afterward, but we can send a proposal and it will be taken to the town council and be voted on.

Another option in Silverton is Silver Lakes Campground – east side of Silverton – before Animas Forks. They are OHV friendly. There is a staging area and parking for trailers. They also have a pavilion for catered meals. Fees were not discussed. Salida has the Cedar Creek (?) campground, where we were before. It was voted that a proposal would be prepared for Silverton, but no price to include in the proposal was discussed. There is still a need for a Chairman for this event to delegate duties. Cliff Meier had offered to take care of the trails and maps and Jeanne Meier has volunteered to do registration, but this is not a one man position. Please step up and volunteer by entering a comment on the web site. If you don't want to chair something, that's OK, just let it be known that you can help and someone will use you.

TWW Productions has provided us with a copy of our video – the NM4W La Bajada trail ride is Episode #3 and it is posted on our web-site.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

It was agreed that a pay-pal account will be set up and be ready for us to start using if and when the need arises (this was discussed during old business, but is really new business).

Most points – Cliff & Jeanne Meier and Frank & Beth Whiston tied with 38 points each. Mark & Joan Wolf were the 1<sup>st</sup> losers with 36 points. There is a \$100 gift certificate to Desert Rat at stake.

Most trails lead – Frank Whiston lead the most trails with 4. Jeff Boggs and Mark Wolf tied for being the 1<sup>st</sup> losers with 3 trails lead for each one. (It was pointed out to me after the meeting that out of a club of a little more than 50 families, there were only 10 leaders this year – people, this is less than 20% of the club that lead trails). We need more trail leaders!

New Members – John Moore and Jared Mosher were both voted in unanimously as members. And, we all pleaded with them to pay their dues. Jared's wife was a little disappointed that we had no secret handshake.

Next meeting is at the Rodacy's and then we go back to the church starting in October. Please see the Event Schedule on the web-site for info and directions.

October host – Tahoe Zahn

November Host – Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell

January – Cliff & Jeanne Meier

February – Jeff & Lauri Rector

March – Dixon & Zelda Patrick

April – Mark & Joan Wolf

Big thanks went out to Jason and Sara

## MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:06

### Raffle Winners:

Tahoe Zahn won \$30 bucks on the 50/50 (Mark Wolf wasn't looking at his tickets and missed all 3 calls for his #)

Frank Whiston won a t-shirt

Kathy Dickey won a tree saver

Cody Bakewell won Amsol performance enhancer

Jeff Rector won a tater sack (they said it was a trash bag, but it looks like a tater sack)

John Moore won a coozie.



## President's Report

by Cliff Meier

Thanks to everyone who ran and was elected for office at the July meeting. The July meeting minutes had the results of the election. There was one correction. Wolfie was shown as the new Trails Chairman and Director of Environmental Affairs. That was my mistake! Frank Whiston is the new Director of Environmental Affairs. We still need a volunteer for Historian and Newsletter Editor. Phil Rodacy can only serve as a temporary editor until he retires and moves to Colorado the end of this year. If we don't get a volunteer for newsletter editor, it will be the end of the newsletter. If you think you are interested, contact Glenn Bontly or Phil to discuss what it entails. You can find their contact info on the Membership List in the newsletter.

At the August meeting we voted to host the 2012 Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association (SWFWDA) Quarterly at Silverton, CO. Frank Whiston has volunteered to take the lead for the Quarterly. He has created an event on the website's calendar for the Quarterly where you can indicate if you would like to volunteer to lead one of the committees or be a committee member. The more club members that volunteer, the easier it will be to make the event a winner! Frank will have more information at the September meeting.

As the summer draws to a close, we have one more meeting at a member's home, Phil & Irene Rodacy, on September 10, and then we will switch back to the Heights Presbyterian Church on Academy. The meetings at the church will be the second Thursday of the month starting at 7:00pm. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to provide goodies at these meetings.

Be sure to check the website calendar for upcoming events. Even as summer ends our trail rides do not! We are always in need of leaders for trail runs. It seems the same folks are leading runs. New blood is always needed. It's not hard. Most trails we run have detailed directions including GPS coordinates. If you wonder why certain club members win the most active award each year, they lead trails!



## From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Frank Whiston

We just received word from the Cibola National Forest that they have revised the Environmental Assessment for Travel Management on the Mountainair Ranger District. The decision for the original environmental assessment (EA), released in 2010, was appealed by NMOHVA and the decision reversed by the regional office. This is a revised version of the EA that responds to the concerns raised by NMOHVA. The Forest service states that the EA will be released sometime after September 12, 2011. The CNF will post the EA and all associated maps on the internet when it is released. This action will open another public comment period. Stay tuned.

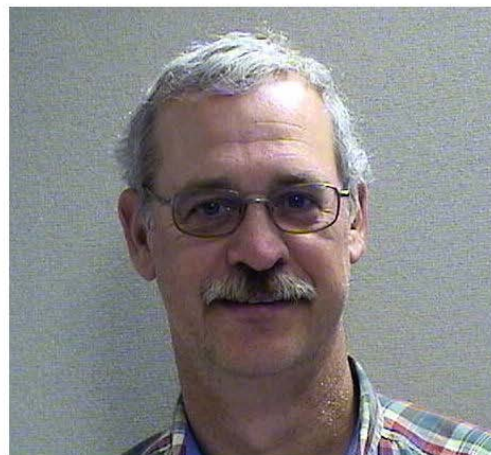
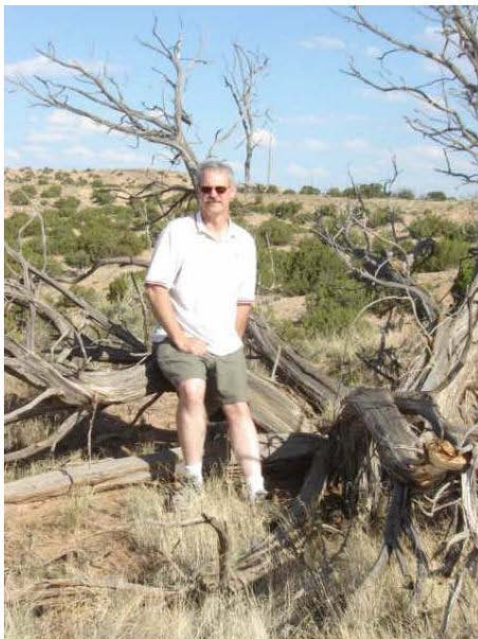
Frank G. Whiston  
NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.



## NM FOUR WHEELER OF THE YEAR

By Joan Wolf

### Dixon Patrick, 4-Wheeler of the Year



Members voted Dixon Patrick as 2011 4-Wheeler of the Year. Dixon's contributions to the club included stepping in as Acting President when Cliff Meier was out-of-state tending to family matters. Dixon must've been to a few business meetings in his life because he was always prepared and kept things moving.

Dixon also spearheaded the Jeep Jam held at Westside Casa Jeep in July 2011. This event got the NM4W name and message out to the public. A subsequent Cedro Peak run led by Dixon allowed interested attendees to test their rigs on the rocks. A member since 2005, Dixon has volunteered for his second term as VP/Sheriff. In that role, he diligently tabulates the points list, keeps track of eligible new members, and levies fines at the hefty rate of \$0.25 per minor infraction.

It's always nice to see Dixon and Zelda in their yellow '97 TJ on runs. Congratulations, Dixon, and thanks for your support of NM4W.

### **Past 4-Wheelers of the Year**

2010 Jeanne Meier  
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

### **Points and Trail Leader Winners**

There was a tie for most points earned in 2011. The Whistons (Frank G. and Beth) and the Meiers (Cliff and Jeanne) won gift certificates to Desert Rat. They earned points by leading day runs and overnights, attending meetings, and going on runs. Frank G. Whiston also won the award for leading the most runs. President Cliff Meier noted that out of a 60+ membership, 10 individuals had been trail leaders. Without trail leaders there would be no NM4W. They're the folks who make it possible for us to see great scenery in the backcountry, make new 4-wheeling friends while enjoying the outdoors, and get to trails that challenge vehicle and driving capabilities. We thank all trail leaders for their efforts and recognize Frank G. as a leader. To the Whistons and Meiers—enjoy the gift certificates!

**MT. TAYLOR**  
**B.R. FJORD MEMORIAL**  
**TRASH PICKUP**

by Jeff Boggs

The B. R. Fjord Memorial Mt. Taylor Trash Pickup was held Saturday, August 6th, 2011.

NMOHVA helped put this event together. Trash bags were supplied by the Forest Service. Several members of the New Mexico 4Wheelers attended this event to help pick up trash on Mt. Taylor. We joined with a large group of ATV'ers to pick up trash and litter on the Forest Roads and at campsites, and there was a lot to be collected.

This event was in memory of Grants, NM resident, B.R. Fjord. He spent most of his life up on that mountain, camping, hunting, and riding his ATV. He had helped organize previous trash pickup events, but he passed away recently, so his friends decided to continue this effort in his honor.

Several NM4W members arrived on Friday night before the Saturday event and camped out up on Mt Taylor. Wolfie and Joan brought their HiLo trailer. Frank Whiston and friend towed a nice rented trailer behind his Jeep. Jeff Boggs arrived in his 1997 Ford Ranger 4x4 and slept under the camper shell. Ron Shubert brought his ATV and trailer and slept in the back of his SUV. Erwin and Jeannie Gavin had their Jeep in tow behind their Truck Camper. At about 8000+ ft elevation, I needed all of my sleeping bag to stay warm that night. Tom Lucero showed up on Sat morning in his Jeep to help out.

The next morning, we met up with 10 or 12 ATV's and the local Grants newspaper reporters for pictures, instructions and trash bags.

The 4x4's went up one Forest Road and the ATV group took another. From 9:00 am to about 12:30 pm, we all spent a lot of time picking up trash, mostly beer bottles/cans. We put out one smoldering campfire and filled 12 trash bags full of trash. Oh yeah, we also took some great 4x4 roads, one of which is slated to be closed off soon.

We ended up back at camp to turn in our trash and were served all-u-can-eat sub sandwiches/soft drinks, which I believe was paid for through a "Tread Lightly" grant. After a nice meal and some visiting, the 4x4's headed up to La Mosca Peak Lookout Tower, and the ATV group took off on an ATV loop. The 4Wheelers enjoyed great views and the recent rains kept the dust down. It was very green up on top. Large meadows were all around and small lakes and ponds off to the north on the high mesa. Frank led us on a real nice loop and he even seemed to know where he was going. We realized that there are many more roads up there and we need to go back over there and see what else Mt Taylor has to offer. B.R. sure has a nice "backyard".

Some of us headed back to the city and some spent another night on Mt Taylor. This Memorial event is planned to be an annual, so next year, please plan on attending. There is no shortage of trash. We collected 34 bags of trash and filled a dumpster. The scenery is amazing, the roads are great, and there are not a lot of others up there.

B.R. Fjord was a really good man. He had recently served on the board for NMOHVA and he stayed on top of the Travel Management Plans for Mt Taylor. He really battled for multi-use access on Mt Taylor, right up until his passing. He was a friend to us all. Picking up trash for a few hours, once a year, is all he asked that we do for Mt Taylor.



There are more pictures are on our Picasa club website. Enjoy.

## **CLEANING MOUNT TAYLOR REMEMBERING B.R. FJORD AND HIS LOVE OF THE OUTDOORS**

Contributed by Frank Whiston

*By Ron Schubert  
NMOHVA Trail Ambassador*

I had a conversation with a friend of mine, Bill “BR” Fjord around three years ago about how trashed Mt Taylor was. We needed to do something about cleaning it up. Bill, being the way he is, “that he wouldn’t partner up with United States Forest Service even if hell froze over”. Bill is from Grants, lived in Lobo Canyon at the base of Mt Taylor. He so dearly loved the mountain and believed it was for everyone, and not just a select few.

BR finally approached USFS about picking up trash on Mt Taylor after much convincing from me. The USFS supplied the trash bags. ATV friends and members of the High Country ATV Explorers picked up the refuse on Mt Taylor during the Sept public lands days 2009 and 2010. Bill decided to go somewhere else with the help of cancer, “God Rest his Soul”.



Bill was a Board member of the New Mexico Off High Vehicle Alliance. "NMOHVA" He loved riding his ATV and defended that right for access to ride. NMOHVA came up with the idea of doing something for him. Bill Fjord's Memorial Trail Clean Up on Mt Taylor.

Bill Fjord's Memorial Trail Clean Up on Mt Taylor was conducted on Aug 6, 2011 under the NMOHVA Banner. The trail clean up was done by members of High Country ATV Explorers, New Mexico 4 Wheelers and Bill's friends. There were over 20 individuals that showed up for this and 8 of us camped overnight on Mt Taylor. The lunch was paid for by a Tread Lightly Stewardship grant. We picked up 37 bags of trash that filled the USFS trash dumpster at Coal mine camp ground.

A somber note: Thank you from bottom of my heart to those that were able to participate in the trail clean up. I am sure Bill would have something like ' "Thank all of you for cowboying up to help".

We will see you next year!

*By Aubrey Ashbaugh  
Cibola Beacon Staff Writer  
Published Thursday, August 11, 2011 4:22 PM MDT*

CIBOLA COUNTY - "The mountain is getting trashed," said B.R. Fjord, three years ago, after driving through and seeing the array of trash up on Mount Taylor. Fjord's comment started the annual clean up on the mountain, shared with his fellow friends who loved the mountain just as much as he.

Fjord, long time Grants resident, passed away in the spring just earlier this year. Friends and fellow ATV riders gathered, like normal, on the mountain Saturday morning to continue the clean up, just as Fjord would have wanted. "He loved this mountain. It just seemed right that we continue," said Ron Schubert, close friend to Fjord.

A group of Fjord's fellow ATV enthusiasts gathered at the "end of the pavement" up on Mount Taylor early Saturday morning to begin their memorial journey. Fjord, son of late local doctor John Fjord, has no family in the area.

Over the years, an accumulation of friends took on the role. "His friends were his family. We all came to just carry on the tradition, and take care of his beloved mountain," added Schubert.

Fjord served as the director of Grants Main Street for many years, as well as the Planning and Zoning chairman for City of Grants. He owned the old Audio Hill music store in Grants many years ago and his hard work and effort were appreciated by many in the community.

Since Fjord's passing, Schubert has taken on the role of organizing the yearly clean up. A resident of Rio Rancho, Schubert has joined many groups and organizations such as New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance, in efforts of keeping mountain roads open for people to enjoy.

Schubert, friends and fellow ATV enthusiasts from the New Mexico 4 Wheelers group lined up their four wheelers, trash pickers, and trash bags, geared up to head out. About 30 volunteers showed up bright and early, ready to clean.

They worked in teams, picking up whatever trash they can find. The group all had only good things to say about Fjord, and shared many stories and laughs on his behalf that morning. “Bill was Bill,” smiled Schubert.

As of late Saturday evening, Fjord’s beloved Mount Taylor was clean and ready for another year.

## Disaster Avoided in Silverton, CO August 2011 By Glenn Bontly

The following article was submitted by Glenn from the Bontly’s Blog. The entire Blog can be found at

<http://glenn-and-jan.blogspot.com>

Our Jeep Club had a trip planned to Silverton, CO (11 – 15 Aug 2011). Looking back, we realized that it had been 4 years since our last trip to Silverton, so we decided to join the small group for a long weekend. Several weeks prior to the trip, I noticed that the front tires on the Jeep had a noticeable negative camber angle (the distance between the top of the tires was less than the distance between the bottom of the tires, like a 10 ton weight was sitting on the hood smooshing the whole front end down). Since I no longer had full-time access to the vehicle (it’s now Jan’s daily driver), I procrastinated in troubleshooting the problem. It wasn’t until the day before we were to leave for Silverton (Jan & I played “hooky” from work that day) that I jacked up the front end and found that both wheels were loose on the spindles. Thinking I could just perform a quick fix, I pulled both hub locks and tried to tighten the spindle nuts, knowing full well that the bearing and spindles were likely already trashed by now. I thought maybe the “band-aid” repair would be good enough to get us through this trip, then I could rebuild the front end after we returned home (oh yeah, I’d have to get someone else do it for me since I no longer have a shop)!

We left early Thursday morning (11 Aug) from Albuquerque. Jan drove the Jeep to Bernalillo, where we met up with “the kids”, Brandon and Jenna. We hooked up the Jeep to the back of the 5<sup>th</sup> wheel and “triple towed” into Durango. There, we disconnected and Jan drove the Jeep the rest of the way into Silverton. In hindsight, I’m surprised the Jeep made it all the way without the whole front end disintegrating! We arrived mid-afternoon at the Mineral Creek Campground, where Cliff and Jeanne had saved us a beautiful spot right next to the creek. We set up camp and had a nice evening.



Friday morning, we packed our lunch, topped off fuel, and were ready for what should have been a great day of scenic Jeepin' in the San Juan Mountains. Before we even got out of town, the front end started dragging and pulling to the right. We immediately dropped out of the group, I unlocked the hubs, and we headed back into town to figure out what to do. We stopped at [San Juan Backcountry](#) (a Jeep rental place) to ask if they knew where we may be able to get some repairs done. The owner, Jeff, said they would be willing to take a look at it. They didn't have the correct size Allen wrench to remove the hub locks, so I pulled one from my tool box for them to use. When the "mechanic" pulled out a chisel and hammer in order to remove the spindle nut, I should have taken that as a signal to RUN! Instead, I pulled the spindle nut socket from my tool box for them to use (I didn't really have much of a choice at this point). We should have pulled the passenger side first, but started on the driver's side for whatever reason. As suspected, the bearings were toast. The guys salvaged some parts from another axle on their lot and put it all back together. ***And then came the passenger side.*** The spindle threads were so badly damaged that they couldn't even get the spindle nut off; we had to ***pry*** the wheel hub off of the spindle! All of the inner broken pieces and steel shavings sprinkled to the ground as the wheel hub was forced off of the spindle!



This is when panic set in! We no longer have a trailer to get the Jeep home. It didn't matter anyway; there was no way to get the wheel back on the vehicle to put it on a trailer! And where in the world are we going to find the parts to repair it? It's not like we could just run down to the closest AutoZone and pick them up. The Jeep has a Warn front hub conversion kit; it's all custom stuff! So I called Derren at [Desert Rat](#) in Albuquerque. I learned that Warn doesn't even carry the kit anymore; Derren said that [Randy's Ring & Pinion](#) should have the parts. I called Stacy at Randy's. Yes, he has the parts, but can only ship them to my billing address (i.e., Albuquerque); that won't do me any good! So I called Derren back, who took my credit card over the phone, ordered the parts, and had them drop-shipped via overnight UPS to the shop in Silverton. We immediately learned that "overnight" to Silverton wouldn't be until sometime Monday afternoon. So much for Jeepin' this weekend! Jeff at San Juan told me he would be happy to let the Jeep sit right where it was, wait for the parts, and put everything back together.

Being able to "let go" is a significant issue for a lot of people when it comes to transitioning to fulltime living in an RV! Back in the day, as soon as I realized the problem couldn't be fixed in the field, I would have loaded the Jeep onto the trailer and pulled it back home behind our truck/Lance camper rig. Upon arriving home, I would have put the Jeep in the garage and fixed it when I had time. Instead, I had to leave it 300 miles from home, trust that it would be okay, and trust that the guys at San Juan would take care to fix it correctly! This was a traumatic experience for me and I had a really hard time dealing with it. I felt completely helpless!

While the others went trail riding on Saturday, we spent the day in Silverton, which we had planned to do anyway (ride Friday and Sunday, and spend Saturday in town). We spent most of the morning at the [Silverton Historical Society Museum](#) and the [Mining Heritage Center](#). What a fabulous collection they have! This was definitely time well spent, and certainly served to take my mind off of the Jeep! After lunch, we walked around town, visited some of the shops, and watched the Durango-Silverton trail pull out. We grilled some chicken for dinner, and then we enjoyed some time around the campfire before calling it a day.

Sunday morning, we packed up and headed back home (a day earlier than planned). Since we weren't scheduled to return to work until Tuesday, we used Monday to pick up a rental car for Jan to get back and forth to work for the rest of the week. We also did laundry, and thoroughly cleaned the house (inside and out). That afternoon, I learned that the parts had arrived to repair the Jeep, and that they would work on it Tuesday or Wednesday (we weren't planning to pick it up until that Saturday).

We both went back to work on Tuesday. That morning, I got a call from Jeff at San Juan; there was a problem with the parts. The three holes on the spindle flanges weren't threaded (they are *supposed* to be threaded)! Jeff called Stacy at Randy's Ring & Pinion to inform him of the problem. Stacy promptly packaged up another set of spindles and shipped them overnight to Silverton; they were scheduled to arrive the following afternoon (Wednesday). As promised, they arrive on time and everything looked good. The guys at San Juan completed the repairs by Thursday afternoon!

At lunchtime on Friday, I headed down to Belen to pick up Brandon's trailer. Jan & I got up at 2 am Saturday morning and were on the road just before 3 am for the return trip to Silverton to pick up the Jeep. Making only one brief stop along the way, we made great time, arriving in Silverton around 8 am. The labor charges were way less than I thought they should be, so I gave the guys a nice "tip" and told them to have a nice dinner on us. We loaded the Jeep on the trailer and spent the next hour



or so walking around town to get the “blood flowing” again before the long drive back to Albuquerque. We arrived home mid-afternoon after a *very* long day!

Sunday was just as hectic. We returned the trailer to Brandon’s, stopped for breakfast at our favorite Mexican restaurant in Belen (Rutilio’s), returned the rental car to the airport, did our weekly laundry, then met up again with the kids at Isotopes Park for Jan’s company picnic and a baseball game. By that evening, we were both looking forward to return to work the next day so we could get some “rest”! But not before thoroughly checking out the Jeep before Jan was to use it again. Jeff and the guys at San Juan Backcountry did a great job! My initial concerns were completely unfounded. Jeff call numerous times throughout the week to keep me posted on their progress and I am grateful for his willingness to help us out. After driving a Ford Fiesta for the week, Jan said she was happy to have the Jeep back (which she affectionately refers to as “the pig”, because it isn’t nearly as “sports car” like as her old Chrysler 300). She tells me that the guys honk at her (hot chick in a built Jeep)! :o)

I worked on this post off and on for several days. The hardest part was trying to come up with an appropriate title. I finally decided on “Disaster *Avoided* in Silverton, CO”. Looking back over the events of the past few weeks, I came to the very scary conclusion that things could have turned out *much* worse. I cringe when I think that Jan could have been hurt (or worse) while driving the Jeep on that dangerous stretch between Durango and Silverton in a pouring rain! I would not have been able to forgive myself if anything had happened to her (or Jenna, who was riding with her)! This was definitely a lesson learned, and a new experience for us in our full-timing adventures!

**NM4W Officers**

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# Trail Tales



October 1, 2011

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From September 10, 2011  
by Lauri Rector



The meeting was held at the home of Phil & Ilene Rodacy

Meeting was “called to order” at 6:10 pm

**GUESTS:** Craig Courtwright & Vicky Medlin, Jennifer Jacobs and daughter, Scott Chazdon

**MEMBERS PRESENT (or those that noted their presence on the sign-up sheet):** Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Pat & Sue Brady, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Mark Mullin III & Andrea Tuthill, Dixon & Zelda Patrick, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy & Janie Shows, Chris Sears & Kim Ewings, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Frank R. & Donna Whiston.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** It was voted that I not to read the minutes, but several objected. Someday I will get to read the minutes, I just know it.

**TREASURER’S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** The club’s balance is \$4,108.05.

**VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Dixon Patrick:** Tracey Blakewell was fined for the loss of 5 lug nuts and for some other humiliating things too (lots of accusations and denials, but there were so many that I could not hear the specifics of what was said). Pat Brady tried to force a fine on Leon Dugger who broke a u-joint while he was working on his Bronco. Of course, Leon disputed this and tried to make it that this is a normal occurrence whenever anyone works on their rig. Dixon explained the point systems for the guests.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:** The comment period is still open for the Farmington area. Please send your comments to [nm\\_ffo\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:nm_ffo_comments@blm.gov) - the more comments they receive the better. This is a good area with a lot of variety from easy to extreme. Let them know that this is a viable off-road area and that you like to come to Farmington and use it.

Santa Fe is still due to come out.

Mountainair – Cibola NF district – we are coming up on the September 12<sup>th</sup> deadline for the revised Travel Management Plan.

We still need a mobile welder to repair gates in Cedro.

**KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!! KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!**

**TRIP CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Mark Wolf:**

PAST EVENTS:

**Aug 27<sup>th</sup>:** **Jemez** – Mark Wolf – trouble started before the air down point. Please refer to the Vice Presidents report for more details, but it has to do with missing lug nuts that involve multiple wheels - they were torqued too tight, but the driver went ahead and went on the ride anyway. The tour went through: Juquin Canyon, San Miguel Mountain, and other areas. Then they went up Holiday Mesa to check out the new gate, only to find out gate was unlocked. It was a beautiful and sunny day, with no dust due to rain the night before.

**Sept 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>:** **Moab’s Red Rock Labor Day Camp-Out** – Cliff Meier – 3 vehicles participated. They ran Lockhart Basin with temperatures on the high side of 106. Everyone enjoyed group camping and they were fed breakfast and dinner.

**Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Mark Wolf went up to the Jemez again since the gate was unlocked and went to Foot Print ruins. They came across a rattle snake just a few feet away from Mark when he noticed it. He is now thinking that a snake bite kit should be something in every vehicle.

UPCOMING EVENTS (check the website for up-to-date information and possible changes):

<b>Sept 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Conejos River Fall Colors Run</b>	Frank G Whiston is leading runs in the Conejos River area. This is for Members only. See the website for more information.
<b>Sept 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>NMOHVA Mt. Taylor Cleanup – National Trails Day</b>	Watch the website for more information
<b>Sept 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Gordy’s Day Trip</b>	Be at the staging area by 9am. Easy, Moderate, Hard and Extreme trails are available.
<b>Sept 28<sup>th</sup>-Oct 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Gila Trail Ride/Campout</b>	Pat Brady – leaving Belen about 9:30 on Wednesday. He plans on going through Chloride Creek on Thursday; the day after that is open and flexible. Apache Creek is a possible camp ground for those that can only go on the weekend. There is no water or electricity, but there are trees and it’s free. All flat and motor homes can get in. Gas is 12 miles away. Temps should be in the 70’s during the day. The Wallow fire was in the area, but there has been a lot of rain and it is green. Pat does not prefer to go on into the wee hours of the morning. He likes to get back to camp or set up camp and enjoy dinner and a camp fire (Dr. Bob, please take note of this!!! - moderation and variety are not bad things).



UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED: (check the website for up-to-date information and possible changes):

<b>Oct 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Tank Trap</b>	Dixon Patrick – New Mexico Rides will be filming another episode. If you have a spare seat for them, they need a total of 3. More details on the web-site.
<b>Oct 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>October Meeting</b>	Meet at the church at 7:00am – Adult Building – straight down hallway and hang a right.
<b>Oct 16<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)</b>	<b>Manzano Mountains Day Trip</b>	Cliff Meier – Cliff will lead the Manzano Mountains run again, leaving the Tijeras ranger station at 9:00. The trail is easy (suitable for stock vehicles) but it will be a long day. There are more details on the website.
<b>Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Palomas Gap</b>	Jeff Boggs – Jeff will leave from the Caballo River camp ground – south side of the dam. Watch the website for more information. He will run Monticello Canyon on Monday. This trail crosses a river about 80 some times.

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** About a total of \$80 for the 50/50 collected so far (\$40+ for the winner). He again has some other good prizes too (I bet Jeff bought the wrong tickets again this month). Also he has brought the club schwag for anyone wanting more NM4W stuff to wear or put on their rig.

**HISTORIAN’S REPORT:** We still need someone for this position. If you take pictures, post them to Picasa, please.

**WEB-MEISTER’S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** Has nothing to discuss, but did want us to let him know if we find anything broken with it.

**EDITOR’S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** Thanked everyone for sending him stuff. He will put a reminder out about a week before the Trail Tails needs to be issued.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Dues were due August 1<sup>st</sup> with a 30-day grace period through 9/1/11. We lost 9 members that did not pay by 9/1/11. This is about average.

The club still needs a Historian.

Summer Quarterly 2012 – Proposed dates are: July 26<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Silverton Lakes Campground is being pursued. They have 47 full hookups for \$35. Tent camping is \$18 a night, and Cabin rental is \$50-\$60, depending on the number of guests. If you pay for 6 nights, you get the 7<sup>th</sup> night for free. The site has indoor restroom with showers. They will rent out showers to those camping somewhere without showers. Campfires are allowed. There is a Camp Store and internet access. A covered pavilion down by the river has been reserved for us already, and we can use it for the catered meal. We can stage the trail rides from there each day. We need a volunteer to get a caterer lined up before October (the town shuts almost completely down during their long winter months). **We Need volunteers!!! You can sign up to help out on the club web-site – at the bottom of the event page.** We will start having meetings with the volunteers in a few more months. Cliff Meier will have sign-up sheet for trail leaders in a few months.

There is no new information on the status of the pay-pal account that was voted on last month.

The October meeting will be held at the church – no more pot-lucks until December.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The church has been reserved for 2012, but March has a conflict on the date. Cliff asked for a different date, but hasn't heard back from them yet. Details on an alternate date are to follow.

Southwest 4-Wheel drive dues are due and will be paid. No vote is needed any longer.

We need someone to host the Christmas party (all agreed that the East Mountains are not viable). **(Addendum to the meeting notes:** After the raffle drawings were done, Ed & Lynn Kausche volunteered to host the Christmas party at their house.

**THE MEETING FINALLY ADJOURNED AT:** 6:59 pm

All thanked the Rodacy's with raucous applause that was accompanied by much barking by Bailey, their dog.

**Raffle Winners:**

Hi-Lift Jack Isolator – Don Roy.

**50/50 Raffle:** Don Roy - \$42. (hope he went and bought lotto tickets on his way home).

**There was also a drawing from a list of people that signed onto the web-site:** Glenn Bontly was the big winner: Brief case from KTM and a Hi-Lift Jack isolator.



## President's Report

by Cliff Meier

As the weather is turning cooler it's time to return to the Height Cumberland Presbyterian Church for our monthly meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. See the website for times and directions. In addition, we have a host for the Christmas party, Ed and Lyn Kausche. Stay tuned the date, time, etc.

I reviewed the upcoming events on the website before I started to write this. I was impressed at the number and diversity of the runs we have had and that are coming up. We have had, and are planning runs ranging from easy to as hard as you want in areas we visit regularly and areas where we have had few runs. In October there are three runs currently scheduled; a hard run (Tank trap), an over nighter (Palomas Gap/Caballo Lake) and an easy run (Manzano Mountains). In other words there is something for everyone. But we need leaders for additional runs this winter, such as, the Christmas tree run, snow runs, and maybe a color run to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Canyon in the Manzanos. If you haven't lead a run, it's easy and fun. Get in touch with Wolfie and I'm sure he will give pointers. Also, keep in mind the annual Roadrunner Food Bank event in November. It's never too late to start gathering non-perishable food items for it.

I continue to encourage club members to be more active in club events, including working to keep trails open. One fun way to do this is running trails in areas that may be closed in the future. This

shows the Forest Service, BLM, etc. that we are using our public lands. One of these runs is the one I am leading in the southern Manzano Mountains Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. On this run we will be an area that may be recommended for closure when the draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Manzano Ranger District is republished shortly. Folks who join me on this run will see the area and will have some background if they choose to comment on the ranger district's plan.

The club still needs a volunteer to fill the Historian position. This is an important position that manages the growing history of the club. It's not a difficult or time consuming job. If you are interested, send me an e-mail.

Before I close, let me remind everyone to log on to the new website to keep up with club activities. The website is the primary tool to announce events, runs, etc., the days of using mass club member e-mails is gone. Also please indicate on the event/run announcements if you are planning to go. This makes the leader's planning easier, ensures you get points/credit for the run/event and may keep you from being left behind if you are a little late.

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

By Frank Whiston  
NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.

All seems to be fairly quiet in terms of travel management in New Mexico at this time. We still have not heard from the Mountainair RD after their announcement that I brought up last month. The Gila claims the release of their record of decision Spring of 2012. The SFNF website has not been updated since the end of August. Mt. Taylor has yet to issue a MVUM. The Camino Real RD of the Carson projects the release of their EA November 2011. Questa RD says that they would have their ROD August 2011, but nothing yet. The good: we can continue to use these forests as we have in the past. As soon as I find out anything on the above areas, I will pass it along. The more 4-Wheelers that we can get to engage in the process, the bigger difference we can make.



## **Conejos Fall Colors Run**

By Frank Whiston

The first time that I lead a trip to the Conejos area was in 2005. It was Labor Day weekend and I recall that everyone was freaking out for the fact that gas prices hit \$3 per gallon. I figured that was the reason that I only had two attendees, the Grevens and the Meiers. This year, attendance was a little better with my neighbors and prospective members-Terry and Lucille Ellis, Paul Caskey, the Wolfs, and my Parents. Maybe it is because the Conejos is in Colorado and that sounds far away. Well, that is not true! The Conejos is no further away from the Albuquerque area than Caballo Lake where the club frequents. Anyway, it is a beautiful area and a nice drive to get there.

One of my objectives for this trip was to see the aspen trees in color. However, they were not the color that I was hoping for, they were still green. I guess I should have waited a couple more weeks. However, I had a couple of things that motivated me to go when we did. First, the Ponderosa Campground closes the last weekend in September. (They have cabins for non-RV or tent campers) Second, my past experience showed that it is hard to get the club to participate in a campout in

October for some reason. There are other campgrounds in the area that are open in October, but not as pretty as Ponderosa.

My other objective was for a taste of fall which was completely fulfilled. It was cool and wet the whole time that we were there. The temps never rose above the 50's and our last morning, there was frost on my Jeep's soft top. The folks that run the campground stated that it had been a strange year and that they wouldn't be surprised if there come a big freeze and all of the Aspen leaves just fall to the ground while still green.

Friday, we ran a trip to the north of the Conejos river valley. We started by taking Hwy 17 back toward the wide spot in the road known as Mogote. From there we climbed a volcanic ridge to the top of Los Mogotes Peaks. At ~9800 feet, there was a commanding view all around including the



Picture Courtesy of Terry Ellis

San Luis Valley. From there, we continued west following the ridge on Colorado state trust land. This was very open country where we saw several groups of Pronghorn. At the end of the open mesa, we re-entered the trees and the Rio Grande NF to climb on Alamaditas Mesa. We found a nice meadow and a break in the clouds, so we stopped for a lunch break overlooking the Fox Creek drainage. From there, my plan was to drive about 1.5 miles of state trust land to meet back up on NF land on the other side of Fox Creek. My plan was foiled by a locked gate and No Trespassing sign when we reached the trust land.

Since we had to backtrack, we took the opportunity to go to some overlooks of the La Jara Canyon with the snow capped Willow Mountain (11,896) in the background.

Saturday, we went to the south. Starting at the Spruce Hole turnoff on Hwy 17, the group made our way to Pinorelosa Mountain (10,968). Along this ridge we could see Hwy 17 in the valley below, and on a clear day, see the Sangre de Cristo range to the east. This day was wet and cloudy. Most of the time, we were in the clouds. There was a short spur road to an overlook of the Los Pinos valley, but we passed it by since all we would see were the clouds. The group continued on to Osier, which serves as the lunch stop for the historic Cumbres and Toltec narrow gage railroad. We pulled in about an hour before the trains arrived. The staff invited us in and we enjoyed the lunches that we had packed inside and out of the cold wind. As we finished up lunch, the train from Chama showed and we continued south, crossing the Rio de Los Pinos



Picture Courtesy of Terry Ellis



Frank G. Whiston Photo

and into New Mexico. I thought that Colorado was soggy, but the New Mexico side was even soggy! The road was covered in what I would describe as a 3-4" layer of mud that was the consistency of snot. The group fell in to the ruts in the road and followed along without trouble. We reached to turnoff where I had planned to loop back north into Colorado, but decided to take a 3 ¾ mile trip the Brazos Ridge overlook. About 100 yards from this turnoff, we reached a large



washout in the road. It looked like the last person through had quite a time getting through and leaving a hole that pretty much swallowed my 35" tire. All of the Jeep Wranglers along motored through the washout while the lone Grand Cherokee took an alternate route. All 5 Jeeps reached the Brazos Ridge Overlook and all of the occupants braved the chilling winds to take in the views of the Cruces Basin Wilderness. Once the group got tired of the wind, we loaded up and backtracked to the turnoff that we had previously reached. This route took us west for a while then turning north retuning to Colorado. We reached Hwy 17 along the southern edge of the Los Pinos Valley. Pictures that I took from this run are on the clubs Picasa site and can be viewed by [clicking here](#). Club members can view the GPS tracks for [Friday](#) and [Saturday](#) runs by clicking the day. (members must log in using the same user name and password that the club uses for the Picasa site). If anyone is interested in going back to this area, just let me know. There are other variations of the trips that we did in this area and it would not take much convincing for me to return.

**A Couple of Runs to the Jemez Mountains**  
**August 27<sup>th</sup> & September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011**  
**By Mark Wolf**

I had not been to the Jemez Mountains for about two years and decided it was waaaayyyyy past time to go up there. I begged Joan to let me use her car and so I set up Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> to lead some people up to the Jemez and have some fun. It was so much fun that I came home and promptly set up another run the following Saturday as another day in the Jemez. The following is an account of those runs.

The first run saw 14 vehicles meet at the Walatowa Visitor Center near Jemez Pueblo, NM. Members who attended were Pat & Sue Brady, Cody Bakewell, Tracy and Cheryl Bakewell, Phil Rodacy, Don Roy and friend, Cliff Meier, Chris Sears, Tedd Romero and Judy Sandoval, Mark Mullin and friend, Jared and Jill Mosher with their daughter, and guests Jennifer Jacobs (with "Country"), Craig Courtright and Vicki Medlin, and Jerry Bukley and his wife.

When we stopped at the tunnels to air down our tires, Tracy noticed that he had some loose and some missing lug nuts on his wheels! That is not good! He tightened up what was left and then wisely decided to turn around and go home. No one blamed him, but it sure was a shame he would not be able to come along today. I'm sure fines will be levied from this group!

We headed up Joaquin Canyon, over the ridge road and down to FR 534, stopping along the way for lunch. There were only a couple of tight places that caused any discomfort to folks, but all made it through without issue. It was only 1:00 PM when we got back to FR 534, so I decided to go over San Miguel Mountain also. A couple of downed trees were bothersome, but we made it. One of which we had to go around as none of us had a chain saw to move the 2' diameter tree. It was 4:30 PM when we made it back to the intersection of FR 534 and 376 and I asked Phil Rodacy to lead them all out to the tunnels and on to Highway 4. He graciously accepted and took them all out. Cliff, Pat & Sue, Cody and I decided to go check out a rumored locked gate. When we got to the location of the supposed locked gate, there was none! That made us all very happy! (And that is what led to my next run!)



On Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> I once again met people at the Walatowa Visitor's center and this time we had only three other people come along for the ride. One was John Moore who actually tried to make the first run, but missed it by about 15 minutes. Depending upon a GPS is not always a good idea, is it John? We also had Bob and Sandy Powell and Jennifer Jacobs with her father Richard and her sweet dog "Country". Richard told me that he had spent lots of time in the Jemez over the years, but not in this part. We again stopped at the tunnels to air down

our tires and headed out for Holiday Mesa. It was an uneventful climb to the top. We turned off to the view point over Virgin Canyon and took a few photos. We then headed up to the Indian Ruins and walked around before lunch.

During this walk around time yours truly walked within three feet of a coiled diamond back rattle snake that was probably 5' long. Jennifer was going to scream at me, but thankfully she was busy looking for her Dad and dog and didn't say anything until I got past the snake. When I turned around to see what they were shouting about, I saw it! We kept our distance and took pictures. (Later I saw a very large bump in that snake and decided he had already devoured lunch and that was why he didn't strike, rattle or anything. Lucky me!)



We had lunch and chatted awhile before heading out again. We headed across Holiday Mesa and onto Stable Mesa. We stopped and looked at some old logging cabins and thought of yesteryear. Near the end of Stable we ran into some people which was the first time of the day we saw other forest visitors. It seemed strange for a Labor Day Weekend. However, we turned south to the end of Stable (and away from the people) and eventually off the mesa. Along the way rain decided to come on and John decided he better cover up. He stopped and got his top back on just in time for it to quit raining. Isn't that the way it always goes? I stopped at the top of the mesa to show them the road and tell them it was steep, loose and rocky to the bottom. Stay to the hill side and keep moving I told them. All did so and we made it to the bottom easily. Jennifer and John both said it was hands on the wheel tightly all the way down and a little scary. Then we headed back to the crossing of Rio Guadalupe and out onto FR 376.

We got to the tunnels and decided to keep going to the gas station at Jemez Pueblo to air up there. We did so and broke off into our separate ways afterwards. It was a great day and fun four wheeling. Richard was glad he went along with Jennifer as he had never seen this part of the Jemez

and was surprised by its beauty and history. I am glad they all came along. Thanks to all of you who came along for either or both rides! See you again on the trail!

## **CHECK OUT THE FOR SALE ITEMS**

FOR SALE: Complete Dana-35 rear end from '95 YJ, 4.11 ratio, Super-35 axles, ARB locker, make offer.

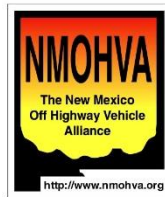
NP231 transfer case from '95 YJ with SYE kit, 2.72 ratio, make offer.

Paul Caskey, 505-463-4939

***SEE MANY MORE GREAT ITEMS FOR SALE ON THE WEBSITE***

## NM4W Officers

<p><b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:President@nm4w.org">President@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:Vice-president@nm4w.org">Vice-president@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 891-8517 <a href="mailto:Secretary@nm4w.org">Secretary@nm4w.org</a></p>
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<p><b>Trip Chairman</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:Trip-chairman@nm4w.org">Trip-chairman@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Environmental Affairs</b> Frank Whiston 292-1541 <a href="mailto:Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org">Environmental-affairs@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>SWFWDA Delegate</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <a href="mailto:n5epa@flash.net">n5epa@flash.net</a></p>







# Trail Tales



November 1, 2011

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From October 13, 2011

by Lauri Rector



The October meeting was held at the church and was hosted by Tahoe Zahn. Scheduled Meeting time is 7:00 pm – Cliff Meier called it to order at 7:01pm

**GUESTS:** Justin & Lisa McKinney – 2008 Jeep Rubicon, Terry & Lucille Ellis – 2006 Jeep Rubicon LJ, Phil & Robin Phillipi (sic?) – 2011 Jeep Rubicon JK, Jennifer Jacobs – '95 Jeep Wrangler YJ, Craig Courtwright & Vicki Medlin - 2010 Jeep Wrangler JK, Tom Sandoval (sorry, didn't hear what you drive).

**MEMBERS PRESENT (or those that noted their presence on the sign-up sheet and those that I remember being there):** Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Glenn & Jan Bontly, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Leon Dugger, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavey, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, John Moore, Dixon & Zeldia Patrick, Dan Pritchard, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Illene Rodacy, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Glenn & Rebagayle Vialpando, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Tahoe Zahn

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** Maybe I did not read them with conviction and enthusiasm, but I was stopped just a few words into reading the September meeting minutes. It was voted unanimously that meeting minutes be accepted as written.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** \$4,714.20

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick:** Dixon Patrick explained the point system for the guests, how they are earned, and why we have them. He also explained the fines assessed by the club when it was time for the Vice President Report. Leon..... be patient.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:**

Please click on the links and submit your comments if possible. We need your help.

**Carson National Forest**

### [Travel Management on the Camino Real Ranger District, Carson National Forest](#)

This area is south of Taos. The plan includes designation of roads open to motorized public travel and closure of roads to motorized public travel. Expect elimination of cross-country motorized travel. A Forest Plan amendment is required. The EA is expected to go out for 30-day comment in November 2011.

## **Travel Management on the Questa Ranger District, Carson National Forest**

The website reports a decision is expected to be reached in August 2011, it is now October, and no decisions have been made public.

### **Cibola National Forest**

#### **Mountainair Ranger District**

The Travel Management EA for the Mountainair Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest is available NOW on the Cibola's NEPA page. The official release of the EA on September 29th started the public's official 30 day comment period. **The public's deadline to submit comments is October 31st.** Only those who provide comments during this comment period will be eligible to appeal the final decision. The Mountainair District covers the areas of the Cibola to the south and east Albuquerque.

#### **Sandia Ranger District**

Cedro Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Project at Cedro Peak near Tijeras

There will be a NMOHVA work party the weekend of October 22-23. Right now it is not sure which day it will be, but it will probably be only one day's work at Mars Court putting up fence. We will need to transport 21 ft. long pipe from the FS office in Tijeras to the site, about 10 mi. south on Hwy. 337. If someone has a trailer that can handle stuff this long we'd appreciate its use. There will be welding done on the fence at the site. We also need a portable welder if someone has one that we could use. Mars Court is accessible totally on pavement. Contact Hurley Wilverth at 505-238-6286 or email [wilverth@q.com](mailto:wilverth@q.com)

#### **Magdalena Ranger District**

No Travel Management update since the proposed action release last summer.

### **Gila National Forest**

The Travel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) expected to be released this past summer by the Gila National Forest has been delayed. Spring of 2012 is currently the anticipated date of release for the FEIS and accompanying Record of Decision (ROD).

### **Santa Fe National Forest**

Current Status as of August 31, 2011

The release of the Santa Fe National Forest Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) has been delayed by the fire suppression and recovery activities on the Las Conchas and Pacheco fires. Santa Fe National Forest staff is working with the Southwestern Regional Office to determine the effects of the fire suppression and recovery activities on the Santa Fe National Forest's Travel Management Planning. More information will be released as it becomes available.

**KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!! KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!**

## TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mark Wolf:

### PAST EVENTS:

- Sept 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>:** **Conejos River Fall Colors Run** – trail ride was beautiful, went up to Colorado and back to New Mexico – muddier in New Mexico.
- Sept 24<sup>th</sup>:** **NMOHVA Mt. Taylor Cleanup – National Trails Day**
- Sept 24<sup>th</sup>** **Gordy's Day Trip** – 14 to 16 vehicles. Coyote Hills was much worse on the obstacles. By the 3<sup>rd</sup> obstacle, the group split up and some went on Coyote Canyon. 3 finished Coyote Hills. All went back to the staging area. The Rectors and Duggars camped there for the night.
- Sept 28<sup>th</sup>-Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>** **Gila Trail Ride/Campout** – Pat Brady – Mark Werkmeister and Don Walker joined Pat & Sue Brady. They had an Elk in camp every night (he sounded like it was a good thing?) Beavers every night too. Free fire wood and toilet paper from BLM, again - for free. They went to several areas sight-seeing. Copper Creek the next day near Bear Holler. There were really big trees there. Everyone should go see it. Go and make comments to the forest service what a great area this is and that it should be kept open to motorized vehicles. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day they went to Snow Lake. There is a really huge meadow which has about 7 miles X 15 miles area of grass.
- Oct 8<sup>th</sup> - Tank Trap** – Dixon Patrick – Very muddy & wet this time. It was like a whole new trail (same way that Coyote Hills was in Gordy's Hill). Probably need to do a trail fix in some areas. New Mexico Rides filmed another episode that day too (be looking for info and footage). 9 Jeeps went and no one broke and only one mishap.

### UPCOMING EVENTS (check website for up-to-date information):

- Oct 16<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)** – Cliff Meier – Manzano Mountains run again – see web site for details. He will be leading a trail northwest of Mountaineer, around the burn area. It is a trail that was closed last year, supposedly due to the burn area. It is in an unused area and the trail is not included in the Travel Management. We need to get it on the maps. Cliff also told us that Dr. Bob's Rocky Road trail has been bulldozed and all of the ledges have been leveled. A RAV4 can now get through it. Bring a chain saw if you have one, could be needed. If you are coming up from the south, let Cliff know so he can wait for you. Abo Mission ruins at the end.
- Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> - Palomas Gap** – Jeff Boggs – Will leave from the Caballo River camp ground – south side of dam. Watch website for more information. There will be 3 days of trail riding. Jeff will do a trail that runs into the mountains on the south side of Caballo Lake. The trail goes up to the top of the Mountain, great views. Next, the trail goes up to almost TorC and crosses the river. There will be an exploration day on Sunday. And then he will run Monticello Box, NE of TorC on Monday. This trail crosses a river about 80 some times. Jeff may also go to Chloride if there is time. May switch run days if it's preferred. Caballo is considered a hard run and it's not being pre-run. There has been a lot of rain in the area.
- Nov 6<sup>th</sup> SFNF Volunteer Trail Clean-up – Paul Caskey:** Will be setting rock steps for the connector trail between the Perimeter and Quemazon Trail Head in Los Alamos. Wear long pants and sleeves, above ankle-boots, leather gloves, and safety glasses which are all required by the Forest Service in order to participate. They will provide hard hats and tools. Contact Jennifer Sublett at [jsublett@fs.fed.us](mailto:jsublett@fs.fed.us) or call her at (505) 753-7331 to reserve your space – it's being limited to 10 people.
- Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Roadrunner Food Drive – Cliff Meier:** This will be our 4<sup>th</sup> year to do this. Bring non-perishables to the next meeting if you are not able to make this run. See web site for do's and don'ts on what to donate. Hopefully, there will be more details on where and when to meet for those that do want to make the run.
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party – Ed and Lyne Kausche:** Starts at 5:00 and it's in Rio Rancho. Address and directions will be posted as usual on the web-site.

## February 2012 – THE CHILE CHALLENGE IS ON!!!!

**Monzano's run next Sunday, Oct. 23 – Cliff Meier:** This run will be similar to the October 16<sup>th</sup> run, but on different trails. The run is suitable for stock vehicles.

# TRAIL LEADERS WANTED

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** He has a list of shirts and sizes along with the shirts. He will start order list, let him know color and sizes you are wanting. It was voted that the club purchase \$300 of shirts and stuff, once Tracy figures out what we need to buy. They went through the book to explain what we do have available to purchase, besides the t-shirts.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT:** We still need a volunteer. If you take pictures post them to website or Picasa.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** Nothing new this month. The website automatically tabulates points now and you can go in and look and check to be sure that you received the proper number of points.

**EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** Thanks for submitting newsletter articles.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**The club still needs a Historian. Please volunteer!**

**Summer Quarterly 2012 –** The proposed dates are July 26<sup>th</sup> through the 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at the Silverton Lakes Campground. We need more volunteers!!! You can sign up to help out on the club web-site, at the bottom of the event page. We will start having meetings with the volunteers in a few more months. Cliff Meier will have sign-up sheet for trail leaders in a few months.

A Pay-pal account is set up for the club's use.

### NEW BUSINESS:

The SWFWDA Spring quarterly will be hosted by the Alamogordo Club.



## Voted in as NEW MEMBERS

**Terry & Lucille Ellis  
Tom Sandoval  
Jennifer Jacobs**

## Voted in as associate member:

**Joe Abbot**

Joe Abbott, is being sponsored by Frank G. Whiston. Joe is a former member who moved to Illinois to work in his family's business. He came back here to visit and went with Frank on Tank Trap. He shared with Frank that he missed the club. Hopefully, this will show Joe that the club misses him and his wife as well.



MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 8:02 pm

A BIG THANKS to our hosts for the October meeting!!! Thanks Tahoe!!!

Raffle Winners:

50/50: Tahoe Zahn - \$53

*Items were left at the August and September meetings – there are about 4 chairs total and a fork. Please claim them if they are yours or they may go out as raffle prizes.*



## President's Report

by Cliff Meier

It's been a busy month with the over nighters at the Gila and Caballo, two Mountaineer runs, and Tank Trap run. Now that it's November it's time to have volunteers for a Christmas Tree, maybe a snow run (if and when it snows!) and any other runs. Let's not let this excellent momentum die! Here's an idea, what about a geocache run for something different? We can set up our own caches and then see who can find them with a prize for who finds the most within a set time. Let Wolfie know if you want to volunteer to lead one of these runs or any other runs.

I sent everyone a reminder e-mail on the Roadrunner Food Bank collection on November 19. This very worthwhile charity event that the club has participated in for several years. In addition to helping those less fortunate than ourselves, the club has had excellent exposure. Please donate something if you can. Either bring your donation to the November meeting or better yet bring it out on November 19. See the event calendar on the club website for details as they become available.

Be sure to sign up on the website for the Christmas Party so we know how many are coming. As in the past years, the meal will be a pot luck with the club supplying the meat and soft drinks. This is important so we have idea how much meat drinks to buy.

If anyone is still having problems with the new website, contact Don Roy. He will walk you through getting on it. It's important that everyone can access it because it's our primary tool to get club related information out to our members.

That's about all for now. See everyone at the November meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

## From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs

By Frank Whiston

NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.

Not long ago, I was reading my October 2011 issue of *4 Wheel Drive Magazine* and one of the articles caught my eye. That article is titled [Tracking the Rio Grande River--Rio Grande River Road](#). Hey, that must be near us, and sure enough, this is along the Rio Grande River near the New Mexico/Colorado border. I had never thought about exploring here, the origin of the Rio Grande Gorge. Not long after reading this article, I discovered that Ken Salazar (Department of the

Interior Secretary) and his cohorts are trying to restrict public access to this area by designating 21,400 acres of Wilderness within a 214,000 acre Río Grande del Norte National Conservation Area. The [Taos News](#) published an article on this a couple of weeks ago. The article covered a visit to the area by Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Hayes. Hayes was quoted stating the following: “Hayes praised the Río Grande del Norte conservation proposal, saying it was conceived locally, will help the area’s economy into the future and protects traditional uses of the land.” A group called Environmental Trends released a study titled [The Economic Costs of Wilderness](#) which states “Some Wilderness can have positive economic impacts but our findings indicate that this is not the general rule. We find that when controlling for other types of federally held land and additional factors impacting economic conditions, **federally designated Wilderness negatively impacts local economic conditions. Specifically, we find a significant negative relationship between the presence of Wilderness and county total payroll, county tax receipts, and county average household income.**”

The truth of the matter is that this BLM land is already protected by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This is the same law that outlines the process by which the federal land agencies are now implementing the Travel Management Rule. If you have looked at the EAs and/or EIS documents that the forests are publishing in order to close roads and trails, you will understand the protection that is already in place. Please write and/or call your senators and representatives and tell them that special Conservation and Wilderness areas actually hurt rural economies and add un-necessary land access restrictions to the general public.

~~~~~ **WORTH REPEATING** ~~~~~

## **FOOD DRIVE REMINDER**

**By Cliff Meier**

Earlier this month, Cliff sent an e-mail reminding everyone of the November Food Drive. In case you didn’t see it, we’re including it in the newsletter:

We are getting an earlier start on coordinating the food drive this year in hopes of being bigger and better this year. The plan is to collect donations and participate in the Channel 4 televised event held on Saturday November 19th as we have the past three years. That said, I would like to encourage everyone to bring donations to each club function from now through mid November.. This is a truly heartwarming experience to participate in and a great way to kick off the Holiday season by giving. There will be more detail coming. Here are some donation suggestions from the [Roadrunner Food Bank](#):

DO:

- Donate Non-Perishable Items
- Donate Foods You Would Like To Eat
- Give Cash Donations

- Give Items like these: Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Entrees, Peanut Butter, Single Serving Foods, Sugar, Baby Food, Canned Vegetables, Pastas, Cooking Oil, Rice, Canned Fruit, Boxed Meals, Canned Meat, Soups, and Dried Pinto Beans.

DON'T:

- Donate Home Canned or Jarred Items - *the Food Bank cannot accept them due to Health Department regulations*
- Donate Items without Labels - *the Food Bank cannot accept items that are not in their original packaging or that are missing labels*
- Donate Items that have been Opened
- Give Items in Glass containers - *because they may break* - **Plastic is better**

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Cliff



## Gordys Hill Ride

By Jeff Boggs

On September 24th, Saturday, 15 vehicles of the 4x4 persuasion showed up at Gordy's Hill, just north of Socorro, New Mexico. The New Mexico 4 Wheelers got together a good mix of 4x4's to explore the trails down at Gordy's. Stock to 40 inch tires met up and after a brief meeting we left and met at the start of Coyote Hills trail. It started out mild, but soon the first dry waterfall stopped us and folks were looking at a 5 foot wall. Jeff Rector made it up and parked at the top. The rest of the group took turns at the ledge, but straps were needed for most of the rest of the vehicles. Jack and Rick Sierra showed up to ride with us. They have been busy with other things, but said that they wanted to get back into wheeling with our group. They have 2 very capable rigs.



Once we had everybody on top of the waterfall, the next ledge was smaller, but caused some problems for several. Looking ahead, we were face to face with another big ledge, so it was decided to let the Big Tire Rigs continue forward and the rest of us would go back out to the main road. So the Small tires went to Coyote Canyon.





Coyote Canyon is a more moderate trail, so this suited our group. It had its tough spots, but there were some bypasses, if needed. Jack's Blazer and Leon's Bronco tried a section that had ledges and tight turns between 2 juniper trees. The trees were just slightly wider than the vehicles. They both squeezed through.

Marcie and the girls got their Jeep Cherokee up and over a nice cascade of rocks. Coyote Canyon was very rough from recent rains. These canyons will change big time between rains.



We finished Coyote Canyon and took a small two track road back to the main road. Soon we were all back at Gordy's Hill. Jeff Rector said his group of 3 finished the harder Coyote Hills trail, but there were 3 more good size walls to climb before they all finished. He wanted to go up Edge Canyon next, but water at the entrance made it impossible on that day, so they went back to Gordy's Hill.

We made the right choice by dividing our group into two.

There are many trails and rough roads in this area. The rough roads are good for stock 4x4's. There are trails for the extreme machines, and moderate trails for the rest of us. We just need to learn the area. I encourage us to go down there more often. It is just an hour and a half from the Albuquerque area.

Thanks to everybody for coming down to Gordy's Hill. As we learn more about the trail system, we will be able to let folks know what level the planned ride would be.



## **Palomas Gap By Jeff Boggs**

On October 21st, Friday afternoon, 4x4 vehicles began to show up at Caballo Lake State Park, south of T or C, NM. Most were towed behind RV's. Drivers and passengers were coming in from Ruidoso, Alamogordo, Las Cruces, Rio Rancho, and Albuquerque to check out the many trails and roads in and around this central New Mexico area. The river side area was full, so most folks went up to the lake side camping area and settled in there. Both areas are good, but tent camping is better at river side.

Ten 4x4's started from the Caballo Lake State Park, riverside parking lot at 8:00 am. We had Eddie Webster (2003 Bronze TJ), Eddie Jackson (TJ), "Buster" Jackson (1980 White CJ-5), all from the Ruidoso Ridge Runners 4x4 club. Dave Plaster (1991 YJ Renegade) from the Desert Mtn. 4 wheel



drive Club, and Sandy McIntosh as passenger from Alamogordo and Albuquerque, respectfully. Sandy came down in their 1998 ZJ.

Also showing up on Saturday morning, all from Rio Rancho was Jared, Jill and little Jade Moser, (White TJ Rubicon), Glenn and Rebagayle Vialpando (TJ) with sons Gavin, Gabriel, and their dog "Poseidon" and Jeff Boggs (2006 TJ Unlimited).

From Albuquerque were Paul and Mary Thompson (TJ), and Paul Caskey (White YJ). From Las Cruces was David Smith in a Toyota FJ Cruiser, Las Cruces 4 Wheel Drive Club.

The first day trail was the Caballo Mtn / Palomas Gap. This is an all day ride beginning at the Caballo Lake dam and heading northeast into the southern end of the Caballo Mountains. These mountains run north/south on the east side of Caballo Lake.



There are very rough roads that turn into dry washes with boulders all along the route. Everybody tried every tough section and there were times when rock and metal met. Paul Caskey was kind enough to be tail gunner this day and Jeff was trail leader. One hard section had several lines, either over two big rocks, or around them. Both ways have their own difficulties. All finally got through, except Paul Caskey got a nasty boulder stuck under his front differential, and this caused his tires to float in the air, just missing that needed traction. Several attempts to move forward and backward were unsuccessful. So, Jeff was able to use a bypass road to get back behind the "floating YJ". A winch cable to the rear bumper provided the pull the free up Paul. He then changed his approach and moved forward.



David's Toyota FJ had a few tough moments, but was lifted enough to get through the rock gardens. The "old pros" from Ruidoso all got through everything. Buster had that CJ leaning way over, but he never ended up on his side. He could squeeze through spaces that the rest of us had to drive over.

Paul and Mary got their TJ to do what they planned on each tough section. Glenn V. drove his long armed TJ up and over the big stuff. Rebagayle got pictures while hanging on to Poseidon. Jared can get his Rubicon (no lift) through anything. Jill got pics and Jade just seemed to enjoy everything. Jade is about 1 year old and has

really cute hiking boots. Paul Caskey was breaking in his recently upgraded YJ. He has four on the floor and I really mean four shifters, at least. Jeff had his "LJ" leading the way. He just has an automatic, so he does not have to think about what gear he is in, except forward or reverse. Dave Plaster had us all laughing with his CB chatter, and he can drive that Renegade. Sandy was a little under the weather, so she just took it easy in the front seat. Hope you get feeling better soon.

The trail climbs out of this canyon and begins the long, bumpy climb to the towers. We finally made it there, and





enjoyed a quick view. This trip is really long and we had to move along to get to Palomas Gap. We made it to this last part of the trip and moved along this narrow road. The road was built around the turn of the century to get supplies and raw materials from western New Mexico to the railroad at Engle, New Mexico, east of the Caballo Mountains. The fact that this road is not maintained and can still be used is amazing. It was built to last. Just one rock slide and no one will ever go this way again. If you have not done this road, you are missing one of the true wonders of the "Old West".

We all got back to camp at dusk. Glenn and Jan Bontly had come down to do the next two days rides.



Day two, Saturday, was Monticello Box. An easy 4x4 ride, but very beautiful. Jeff, Glenn and Jan, Paul and Mary, Paul Caskey, Glenn Vialpando's family, Eddie Webster, Eddie Jackson, Buster, and Dave Plaster all made it to go through the wet Monticello Box Canyon. This canyon has a running year round spring that flows down this beautiful narrow canyon. We had a great time driving through.

We went to the old mining town of Chloride, NM. There was a museum there. We learned about the history of the silver mining town. There was a safe in the museum that weighed six

thousand pounds. Built in Cincinnati, Ohio in the late 1800's, shipped by railroad to Engle, New Mexico, then transported by horse drawn wagon down the Palomas Gap Tow Road, and then to Chloride.

The third day, Monday, we met to go exploring in the Caballo Mountains, concentrating on the west side, between Caballo Lake and the Caballo Mtns. Jeff, Paul and Mary, Glenn and Jan, Glenn and Rebagayle, and the boys, and the dog, Eddie Webster, and Paul Caskey all started out to just follow every road up to the base of the western flanks of the Caballo Mtns.

Not long into the ride, Eddie Webster had an idler pulley go out and this tossed his jeep's serpentine belt. This ended his day. Glenn Vialpando and Jeff towed him back to camp and Eddie would tow his Jeep back to Ruidoso for repairs. Glenn decided to stay in camp and Jeff went back and located the rest of the explorers via CB radio. After a nice lunch by the lake, we took off in search of the "Bat Cave", a local sight in the Caballo's. We never found it, but we discovered a lot of cool roads and some mine sites. We took turns leading exploration,



because we found a lot of dead ends. Paul Caskey was leading and he misjudged a narrow part of a faint road up on the side of a big canyon. His YJ slipped sideways down into a wash, and he was stuck good!!!!. Glenn pulled around the YJ and we hooked a winch line to Paul's front bumper. Paul Thompson hooked a strap from the leaning YJ's roll cage to his winch line to decrease the chance of a rollover. This plan worked and Paul Caskey and his YJ were back on flat ground again. No Damage.

We continued up this really big, rocky canyon until we reached the cliffs. Time to turn around and head back to camp. This canyon has mild to extreme sections. Come along next time and we will show where it is.

Back at camp, we spent several evening around a campfire, and the weather was really nice. Thanks to everyone for a wonderful time. It was a wonderful weekend. We will do this again. There was talk of going back in the spring of 2012. If there is interest, we should go down there. We did not even see but a small part of the west side of the Caballo's and there are many roads and trails on the east side, too.

Enjoy the many pictures on the Picasa website. And thanks to all the folks from other clubs for joining us.

## NM4W Officers

|                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>President</b><br/>Cliff Meier<br/>281-3704<br/><a href="mailto:Pres@nm4w.org">Pres@nm4w.org</a></p>       | <p><b>Vice-President</b><br/>Dixon Patrick<br/>271-9133<br/><a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a></p>      | <p><b>Secretary</b><br/>Lauri Rector<br/>891-8517<br/><a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a></p>                     |
| <p><b>Treasurer</b><br/>Jason Lavy<br/>710-4928<br/><a href="mailto:treas@nm4w.org">treas@nm4w.org</a></p>      | <p><b>Program Chairman</b><br/>Tracy Bakewell<br/>250-3876<br/><a href="mailto:prog@nm4w.org">prog@nm4w.org</a></p>     | <p><b>Historian</b><br/>“Your Name Here”<br/>PLEASE VOLUNTEER<br/><a href="mailto:history@nm4w.org">history@nm4w.org</a></p> |
| <p><b>Trip Chairman</b><br/>Mark Wolf<br/>856-8539<br/><a href="mailto:trails@nm4w.org">trails@nm4w.org</a></p> | <p><b>Environmental Affairs</b><br/>Frank Whiston<br/>292-1541<br/><a href="mailto:land@nm4w.org">land@nm4w.org</a></p> | <p><b>SWFWDA Delegate</b><br/>Bob Norton<br/>281-5315<br/><a href="mailto:n5epa@flash.net">n5epa@flash.net</a></p>           |
| <p>Web Site Administrator <a href="mailto:webadmin@nm4w.org">webadmin@nm4w.org</a></p>                          |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                              |







# Trail Tales



December 1, 2011

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From November 10, 2011

by Lauri Rector



The November meeting was held at the church and was hosted by Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm (the president had to wait for the secretary)

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Craig Courtwright & Vicki Medlin - 2010 Jeep Wrangler JK, Mike Thorson - '11 JK, Diane Goodman - Ford Explorer.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Paul Caskey, Rance & Kelly Cochrane, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavey, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Don Roy, Chris Sears & Kim, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Tahoe Zahn.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** It was finally voted that I not to read them, but, in the middle of the vote, someone tried to move on to the treasurer's report. And, I wondered why I have a hard time keeping up during the meeting.....

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** The club has a balance of \$4,253.74 after paying Southwest, Blue Ribbon and United. Someone asked about NMOVA dues being paid and Jason said that he thought they were already paid. Report was approved as read. Jason confirmed that we did not pay NMOHVA; he'll send check tomorrow.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick:** We have a couple of fines, of which are both for someone who has added some upgrades to their Jeep. On the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Palomas Gap trip (see the Nov. Newsletter for details), Paul Caskey got hung up on a rock. He said something about wanting to go a different route than everyone, because they were going over a ragged rock? (I assume they were all making it over it). So he tried driving over a bigger rock and even with a new "tummy tuck" on his YJ, he got hung up on it. And, then on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day Dixon said Paul was going sideways. Paul was leading at the time and went up a "gravelish" road and then was going over a ravine on a dirt bridge that gave way under him as he was driving over it. He admitted that he did make an attempt to be a human kick stand for his Jeep. He started to stick his arm out the window as the Jeep was going over, but thought better of it. Paul's Jeep ended up on its side. Paul then opened the glove box and everything dumped out on him (were there cameras???) Paul did the

walk of shame and carried his fine money up to the front of the room and put it in the fine can. Dixon explained the point system to everyone.

As mentioned, you can check your points on the web site - under member tool tab. This shows the event, please check it and be sure that you are being given the proper points for the events you have attended.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:** The Mountainair comment period is now closed. Secretary Salazar is still up to his antics in Northern New Mexico. He is trying to designate a big area above the Rio Grande Gorge as a conservation area. It includes some wilderness areas. We are still waiting for responses regarding a couple of forests. Paul Caskey asked if one comment could be written and get a lot of people to sign it. Jason Lavy noted that 50 pieces of paper is better than 1 sheet with 50 signatures. Mark Werkmeister advised that one comment counts as 1 comment, no matter how many sign it. It is normal practice for the comments to be counted. Craig Courtwright worked in the forest service for years and suggested that an official opinion on things would carry more weight in the appeals process. Cliff Meier said that the Mountainair Ranger district web site had a very easy way to post your comments and works really easily, even though someone mentioned that they were not able to pull it up.

***KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!! KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!***

**TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mark Wolf:**

PAST EVENTS:

**Oct 16<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)** – Cliff Meier – There was an easy fun run through an area where there was a burn. A 2<sup>nd</sup> trail ride in the same area was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was a much smaller group as a lot of people went to Palomas Gap. It was in a different area and was also enjoyable.

**Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> - Palomas Gap** – Jeff Boggs – The camping on the south side of lake was full for RV's, so they went lake side, but the tent campers and slide in camper people were able to find spots on the south side. For the 1<sup>st</sup> day, there were several guests in attendance. Joining them were about 3 Jeeps from the Ruidoso Ridge Runners and some from Alamogordo, as well as some guests from Las Cruces. They aired down by the dam and took the route through Apache Gap. There were bi-passes and areas along the way to play on. Pictures were posted to the Picasa website. It was a beautiful day to be on top where the towers are. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day, they ran Monticello Box. Pictures of this are also on Picasa. Then the group went to Chloride, where a few people still live. There is an RV park there now. Jeff mentioned the possibilities for going down there again. The 3<sup>rd</sup> day was for exploring on roads around the lake; no one had been on any of these trails. They went up a wash and drove about an hour – easy things to extreme things in the wash. Then they came up to the mountain and decided to turn around, come back, and call it day.

**Nov 6<sup>th</sup> SFNF Volunteer Trail Clean-up – Paul Caskey:** Volunteers built steps up a steep trail for pedestrian use. There were about 6 people who showed up to work for about 4 or 5 hours. Users of this trail were saying that it was too dangerous and they had to take a long path around. Paul said he got to learn how to use various weapons of destruction.

He was dubbed by the other volunteers as the NMOVA representative. Paul was happy to be able to show the hiking people that we can all help each other have the trails we need to enjoy the land.

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Roadrunner Food Drive – Cliff Meier:** Meet at 3:30 in same parking lot as usual. It is next to Winrock Mall (Parking NW of the mall?) Winrock is near the old Gardunos and TGI Friday's. We are 1<sup>st</sup> on the list and should drop off our donations by 4:00.

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Tree Run – NEED TRIP LEADER**

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Party – Ed and Lyne Kausche:** All Ed had to say was. It starts at 5:00 at his house (direction on web site). Lori will do the gift exchange. I explained the rules. The Club will buy \$150 worth of meat. Members will bring sides or dessert. Guests are welcome, it is not a member's only party. Bring your appetites.

**February 2012 – The CHILE CHALLENGE IS ON!!!!**

Look on the calendar on the web site – lots of stuff on the website for all next year.

## **- WANTED - TRAIL LEADERS**

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** Tracy summarized which articles were most in demand. Pocket t-shirts were the most wanted item – just about tied with long sleeve shirts. 25 pocket shirts for \$315 and about 30 of the plain t-shirts. No pricing for long sleeve pocketed shirt or the sweat shirts. You can go to Zia and get a "one-off" made for yourself if you want; they have our logo. Colored logos are more expensive. It was voted that \$350 be approved to buy more shirts and other items.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Viapondo:** Not present.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** Newsletters from Blue Ribbon will be posted on the website. Officers are now identified on the website. 33 different people logged into the web-site over the last 2 weeks. The points system shows the rides you participated in and the points you received.

**EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** Not present

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Summer Quarterly 2012 – Committee meeting was held last Tuesday. Don Roy, our web guru, is working on web site for the event. On-line registration will be ready, and the event will be listed in the SWFWDA Newsletter. Breakfast burritos will be served one morning. The event will be held July 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> at Silverton Lakes Campground on the north end of Silverton CO. There is a lot of camping in Silverton, some free. Search the website –there

is even a clothing optional camp near Ridgeway for those who prefer to travel light. Quarterly T-shirts are being designed – you must pre-order as they will not be sold at the event. Jeanne needs a picture of downtown Silverton; preferably one that looks down on Silverton.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion made that a donation be given to the church - \$200 was approved. Then it was changed and approved to match what we donated last year.

Cliff has Chile Challenge raffle tickets. Cliff explained the raffle to everyone – raffle off donated gifts of sets of tires, winches and goodies.

Tahoe will work at setting up a treasure hunt in the Jemez in the spring. He wanted to know if there was anyone that would be interested. It was suggested that he pick a weekend and post it on the web-site.

Leftovers from meetings and events, what do we do with them. It was agreed that unclaimed items will be raffled off. Paul Caskey has gift certificate from Black Diamond, he wants to have his own private auction.

Saturday BLM cleanup at Buckman Mesa from 8:00 to 12:00 – information is on the web-site.

### **Voted in as members:**

Craig Courtwright was voted in.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** 7:58 pm

**A BIG THANKS to our hosts for the November meeting!!! Thanks Tracy and Cheryle Blackwell!!!!**

### **Raffle Winners:**

**50/50:** Keith Jurey – The amount was either \$37.50 or \$34.50.



## **President's Report**

by Cliff Meier

2011 is winding down! It constantly amazes me how fast the years go by, maybe it's got to do with I'm getting older! Even with winter upon us, the club doesn't seem to be slowing down. But we still need folks to volunteer to lead trails as Wolfie reminds us all at each meeting. Really, it's not hard, just as the slogan says "just do it!" Let Wolfie or me know if we can make it easier and "less scary".



I would like to thank everyone who came out for the Road Runner Food Bank food drive. Because of our participation in past years, we were selected as the lead off donator this year. I was thanked numerous times by numerous Road Runner and KOB Channel 4 folks for our donations. Thanks again, this puts us in an excellent light with our community.

Another group of club members need to be recognized. They are next summer's South West Four Wheel Drive Association (SWFWDA) Quarterly committee. These guys and gals have been working their tails off planning the event and getting the ball rolling. This event will be outstanding and everyone that can come, should. As a club, we have a reputation throughout SWFWDA of putting on great events. We are already getting requests for information from folks outside of NM and when can they sign up!

Along the same lines, registration for the 2012 Chile Challenge opened up December 1<sup>st</sup>. Go to our club calendar for details.

Jeanne and I wish everyone a **very merry Christmas and happy New Year!!**

That's about all for now. See everyone at the Christmas Party/December meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

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

By Frank Whiston

NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.

So, what can NM4W members do to support Motorized access? I will bring up Werkmeister's 3 legged stool analogy again. The three legs:

1. **Working with your local agency folks**, being on a first-name basis with the local office, being ready and willing to help them out by volunteering, etc.
2. **Working the political 'persuasion' end of things.** This helps us in two ways:
  - a. While the Forest Service, BLM, etc don't answer directly to our elected politicians, our polls can place quite a bit of leverage on the agencies if they want. The agency leadership at every level doesn't want the politicians making 'waves' as it makes more work for their bosses.
  - b. The agency DOES have to answer to the US Congress so having elected representation that holds the agencies accountable is a good thing.
3. And finally, **we need to be working hard at the public participation process** (think NEPA!). The NEPA process is really the only official opportunity that the public has to help shape the agency policy and execution. **It is not as hard as it might seem.** But it does take time and commitment and some training/practice.

We are standing heavily on the third leg right now in New Mexico. At the November club meeting, a question was asked about commenting on Environmental Assessments and Impact Statements. I will attempt to address this question with this month's report. It was

asked if a comment could be generated for the club members to sign and send in themselves. This is not uncommon and the FS refers to such comments as form letters.

The [Decision Notice and FONSI for the Questa Ranger District Travel Management](#) was published, November 17, 2011, so I will use this as an example. Along with the decision, the Carson National Forest also published its [responses to comment letters](#) received during the 30-day comment period. This is a good place to start in looking at how the Forest Service handles form letters. Below is a section of the first page of the CNF's response to public comment document:

**Forest Service Responses to Comments Made on Questa Ranger District Travel Management Proposed Action during 2<sup>nd</sup> 30-Day Notice and Comment Period (July 1 to August 1, 2011)**

In accordance with the Forest Service's Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures for National Forest System Projects and Activities, a legal notice was published in *The Taos News* on June 30, 2011 (36 CFR 215.6). It provided notice to the public of the opportunity to comment on the environmental assessment for travel management on the Questa Ranger District, within 30 days. The Carson National Forest mailed over 60 environmental assessments and 50 emails for 30-day comment. During the comment period, the public responded with 153 letters and emails regarding travel management on the Questa Ranger District and 300 form letters. Comments received during the notice and comment period are addressed in this document or agency responses can be found in the project record.

| Letter Number | Date Post Marked | Commenter Name                               |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 088           | 07/05/2011       | Joanie Berdie (Carson Forest Watch)          |
| 089           | 07/10/2011       | Arifa Goodman                                |
| 090           | 07/10/2011       | Bill Bonahoom                                |
| 091           | 07/18/2011       | Melody Sayre                                 |
| 092           | 07/18/2011       | Russell Church, Town of Red River            |
| 093           | 07/19/2011       | Tom Mundheim                                 |
| 094           | 07/20/2011       | Cyndi Tuell, Center for Biological Diversity |
| 095           | 07/25/2011       | Peggy Nelson                                 |

Note that they received 153 letters and emails and 300 form letters. However, this document only individually addresses 133 of these comments. As you can see, 300 form letters submitted individually only 'count' as a single letter. The only thing that I can see that the same comment submitted with multiple names does is to give each individual standing to appeal the decision and cause busy work for the agency to sort through them all.

At our last meeting, Craig Courtright stated that a comment from a group stating an official position carries more weight than a comment from an individual. We are already doing this:

| Letter Number | Date Post Marked | Commenter Name                                                  |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 212           | 07/29/2011       | Mark Werkmeister NMOHVA, Linda Calhoun, Mayor Town of Red River |
| 213           | 07/29/2011       | Mark Werkmeister NMOHVA, Linda Calhoun, Mayor Town of Red River |
| 214           | 07/29/2011       | Mark Werkmeister NMOHVA, Linda Calhoun, Mayor Town of Red River |
| 215           | 07/29/2011       | Mark Werkmeister NMOHVA, Linda Calhoun, Mayor Town of Red River |
| 216           | 07/29/2011       | Mark Werkmeister NMOHVA, Linda Calhoun, Mayor Town of Red River |
| 217           | 07/29/2011       | Mark Werkmeister NMOHVA, Linda Calhoun, Mayor Town of Red River |
| 218           | 07/29/2011       | Mark Werkmeister NMOHVA, Linda Calhoun, Mayor Town of Red River |
| 219           | 07/29/2011       | Mark Werkmeister NMOHVA, Linda Calhoun, Mayor Town of Red River |
| 128           | 07/28/2011       | Frank Whiston NMOHVA                                            |
| 129           | 07/28/2011       | Frank Whiston NMOHVA                                            |
| 130           | 07/28/2011       | Frank Whiston NMOHVA                                            |

NM4W is member of NMOHVA (NM4W members Mark Werkmeister, Tony Louderbough, and I are on the Board of Directors for NMOHVA). When commenting for NMOHVA, we are also representing NM4W and other OHV groups and individuals.

One more clarification: It is not the comment being 'an official position' that gives it weight. It is the fact that the comment is a 'substantive' comment that gives it weight. A substantive comment is one that:

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

A simple comment telling the agency that we 'like' or don't support their action is NOT a substantive comment and the agency can (and will) just ignore it. Yes, substantive comments are more work. But they are the ONLY way the public can influence the NEPA process.

The bottom line is the more people we can get involved in this process the better. It is not a sustainable practice for motorized organizations such as ours to rely on only a couple of folks to be involved and submitting comments. Who will pick this up if those individuals are hit by a bus? The more pro-motorized access perspectives that we can bring to the NEPA process the better. However, as stated earlier it does take time and commitment and some training/practice. It is not as hard as you might think. **My comment on the Middle Fork Lake road generated a 469 word response from the Forest Service.** (The FS ignored the fundamental basis of my comment, but that gives NMOHVA excellent standing for appeal) **I have never even traveled that road by any means of conveyance!** You do not need intimate knowledge of the area being impacted by a NEPA decision to write a valid comment. NMOHVA offers training on how to write a substantive comment and is willing to train its members. I am very willing to work with anyone who wants to get involved.

# ROADRUNNER FOOD DRIVE

By Cliff Meier



On November 11, club members gathered in the Winrock parking lot to stage prior to proceeding on to the Road Runner Food Bank for the annual club member's food donation. We have participated for the last two years and our participation is eagerly anticipated by the food bank. In recognition of our donations in past years, we were selected as the lead off group to start unloading at 4:00pm sharp. KOB Channel 4 televised the whole event and interviewed our club president, Cliff Meier. Cliff explained about the club, its purpose and activities.

This year 12 vehicles with "their" people donated a total of 1500 pounds of food.

As with past years, the dark red Jeep with the top rack was a hit! Next year someone has to give Tony some competition!



Below are Bob and Carol Provance and their Hummer.



After dropping off their donations, many of the group joined the Whiston's at Jason's Deli to complete the afternoon.



## Trail Rides

There are no trip reports this month.



## NM4W Officers

|                                                                                                       |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>President</b><br>Cliff Meier<br>281-3704<br><a href="mailto:Pres@nm4w.org">Pres@nm4w.org</a>       | <b>Vice-President</b><br>Dixon Patrick<br>271-9133<br><a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a>      | <b>Secretary</b><br>Lauri Rector<br>891-8517<br><a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a>                     |
| <b>Treasurer</b><br>Jason Lavy<br>710-4928<br><a href="mailto:treas@nm4w.org">treas@nm4w.org</a>      | <b>Program Chairman</b><br>Tracy Bakewell<br>250-3876<br><a href="mailto:prog@nm4w.org">prog@nm4w.org</a>     | <b>Historian</b><br>“Your Name Here”<br>PLEASE VOLUNTEER<br><a href="mailto:history@nm4w.org">history@nm4w.org</a> |
| <b>Trip Chairman</b><br>Mark Wolf<br>856-8539<br><a href="mailto:trails@nm4w.org">trails@nm4w.org</a> | <b>Environmental Affairs</b><br>Frank Whiston<br>292-1541<br><a href="mailto:land@nm4w.org">land@nm4w.org</a> | <b>SWFWDA Delegate</b><br>Bob Norton<br>281-5315<br><a href="mailto:n5epa@flash.net">n5epa@flash.net</a>           |
| Web Site Administrator <a href="mailto:webadmin@nm4w.org">webadmin@nm4w.org</a>                       |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                    |

