



# Trail Tales



January 1, 2012

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From December 10, 2011

by Lauri Rector



Ed & Lyn Kausche hosted the December meeting / Christmas party in their lovely home. The meeting was called to order at 6:21 pm (there was another long wait for the secretary and I must say that I am worth it!!!!)

**GUESTS:** Jeff Taylor - '99 Jeep Wrangler TJ.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Glenn & Jan Bontly, Paul Caskey, Craig Courtright & Vicky Medlin, Jack & Kathy Dickey, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick (Zelda did call him during the pot luck), Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Illene Rodacy, Don Roy, Chris Sears & Kim, Mark Werkmeister & Joanne Spivack, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Tahoe Zahn

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** I said “no way”, I was not prepared. After much discussion (a lot more than what was needed), a hand vote was finally done. Majority voted to dismiss with the reading of the minutes.



**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** He was not present and I don't think he gave the amount in the checking account to anyone.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick:** Fines for last month:  
Christmas Tree Run – Pat & Sue Brady slid off the road – a fine was issued for “leaving the road way”. Chris Sears offered that another fine be assessed as Pat Brady suggested a bad area to air up after the run was over. Pat had them drive past the tunnels, where there were 3 paved parking areas, to a muddy area.

An explanation of the points was provided for the guest. The new guest, Jeff, seemed to understand how it all worked (just in case we don't ever see you again Jeff, it was nice chatting with you before the meeting).

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:** NMOVA working on proposed action on Questa decision. Waiting on several forest districts to come out with their reports. Taos released their final plan recently.

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

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

PAST EVENTS:

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Roadrunner Food Drive – Cliff Meier:** 12 vehicles participated in the run, 1500 pounds of food was donated along with a check for \$250 – which the Meiers provided in the hopes that the club would be willing to match their cash donation from last year. It was voted that the club would reimburse the Meiers for the monetary donation.

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Tree Run –** 9 people showed- up, but only 3 people cut trees. There was a lot of fresh snow; very pretty. Frank Whiston shared a lesson that he learned this year. Once they had their tree in the house and it warmed up, they realized an animal had been using it as a port-a-potty (Hey Leon, don’t leave your Bronco in the woods unattended). Now the Whiston’s have a very lovely, albeit, artificial tree.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**January – New Year’s Eve at Gordy’s Hill:** Jeff Boggs is organizing this event along with Jeff Rector. Watch website for updates.

**February 2012 – CHILE CHALLENGE IS ON!!!!:** No trails figured out yet. Mark encouraged everyone to go. The website has the registration on it.

**Spring Quarterly:** April 20 -22 in or near Ruidoso, New Mexico

**Moab:** Cliff Meier – check website for details

***Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site –  
Lots of activities on the website for next year.***

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** Not in attendance at this meeting

**HISTORIAN’S REPORT – Glenn Viaondo:** Not present.

**- WANTED -  
TRAIL LEADERS**

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** He and his son will be working on a complete rewrite of web site. They are planning to roll it out next spring. This should not result in any loss of data. Changes will be to make the website “prettier”.

**EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** January Trail Tails may be a few days late next month due to the holidays.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Summer Quarterly 2012 – need to start looking into your reservations soon. Businesses should be responding to emails even in the winter. Phil Rodacy begged to differ with that statement, he said that they are 3 weeks without a response from someone that they emailed.

Jeannie Meier offered Registration will be done on-line sometime around the 1<sup>st</sup> of March. Ev.nm4w.org is up and you can check it out.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Jack Dickey had concerns with fines that were being passed out to users at Gordy's Hill. The law enforcement officer was able to Google the event, which hosted by the local college kids, on his phone. This event was advertised to the public on-line and with signs to direct participants to the staging area. This type of advertising for an event on BLM land would make it an “organized” event and therefore subject to appropriate permits and permit fees. Please refer to the “members only” section of the club web-site for information on runs on BLM or Forest lands that require permits for “organized” runs.

Paul Caskey still has his gift certificate for a black diamond lift kit. Contact Paul if you could use it.

Mark & Joan Wolf over-spent on the meat. They spent \$206 and we voted on \$150 limit. The members present voted to reimburse the Wolf's for the full \$206 that they spent.

Jan and Glenn Bontly are moving to Arizona in a couple of weeks. We gave them a card and wished them well. They will be missed by all!!!! Side note for new members and guests: Glenn was the webmaster and editor of the trail tails from about mid 2002 (just shortly after Jeff and I moved here until this past August. A club could not ask for a better person for these 2 positions and Glenn served the club very well, his work was much appreciated!!! Jan and Glenn recently married, but it's hard to realize that Jan has only been with the club for a few years. She has fit right in with the club and enjoys the sport)

No new members voted in.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** 6:30 (wow, this was a short meeting)

**A BIG THANKS to our hosts for the December meeting!!! Thanks to the Kausche's for opening their homes to us for our meeting and Christmas party.**

**Raffle Winners:** No raffle

Extra Information: Christmas gift exchange was done immediately after the meeting. We had 16 participating. Starbuck gift cards were popular gift this year and the preferred gift to steal as well.



## **President's Report**

by Cliff Meier

2011 has gone and 2012 is upon us! 2012 should be a great year with many 4X4 events already planned such as the Chile Challenge in Feb, SWFWDA's Spring Quarterly in the Tularosa, NM area in Apr, a club Moab trip in May and the SWFWDA Summer Quarterly in Silverton during July. Check the club calendar on the website for details. These event plus the normal club events which have not been scheduled yet, will make 2012 a busy year!

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

That's about all for now. See everyone at January meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

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

By Frank Whiston

NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.

Last month, I discussed the three legged stool and my trip down to Gordy's Hill for New Year's Rockin Eve was a reminder of that analogy. The Socorro Resource Management Plan designates Gordy's Hill as an area for OHV recreation. The plan outlines that the OHV area shall include designated OHV routes. This is an opportunity for the club to become involved with the Socorro BLM office in effort to help designated the routes and develop the area. This would also be a candidate area to apply for Grant money, much like NMOHVA did with the Cedro area. Funding would help the BLM develop the area for our use. All it needs are some folks willing to put in a little work. We have connections with people who have been successful with this work in the past, so volunteers would not be going it alone. The trouble is that the folks who have traditionally been working these points are already past their bandwidth. This is just one example of possible projects that enthusiasts could take on and make 2012 a positive year for 4-wheel recreation.

Happy New Year.

## **New Historian**

A special thanks to Glenn Vialpando, who has graciously volunteered to be the historian for the club. In addition to posting your photos on our Picasa site, please send any other items of historical significance to Glenn.

## NM4W Officers

<p><b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Pres@nm4w.org">Pres@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 891-8517 <a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a></p>
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## Meeting Minutes

From January 12, 2011

by Lauri Rector



Meetings are back at the Church again. Cliff & Jeanne Meier hosted this month's meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm

**GUESTS:** Don Miller '99 Cherokee (welcome back, Don!), Mark Wilkins '81 CJ, Charles Ritter '79 CJ5. Ken Davis and Diane Goodman must have been present, they were voted in, but I don't have them in my notes and they are not on the sign-up sheet.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeff Boggs, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Keith Chapin, Rance & Kelly Cochran, Craig Courtright, Kevin Cox, Terry & Lucille Ellis, Erwin Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Dan Pritchard, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy, Chris Sears & Kim, Craig & Mary Turpin, Glenn & Rebagayle Vialpando, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Tahoe Zahn.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** It was long and painful, but I read the meeting minutes clear up to the Secretary's report thanks to the vote to dispense the reading of the minutes. Luckily Jeff Boggs had a "Plan B" and put a motion on the floor that we all wait until the movie comes out. That got everyone's vote and I got to quit reading and we got to get back on track with the meeting. Corrections to the December meeting minutes: Check to Food bank was \$200 not \$250 and Erwin Grevin was present at the December meeting. Cliff Meier reminded everyone that the minutes are posted on the web site, so that is why we take a vote to dispense with reading. If you want to read them, you can read them yourself (quietly or out loud, it's your choice). If you make a movie, we'd all like to see it.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** \$3383.16 is what we currently have in the bank. Someone said that we had not yet deposited their check and Jason assured us that all checks were deposited yesterday. Treasurer report was accepted as read.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick:** He explained the point system to the guests and how they can earn them and then be voted in as a member at future meeting. He asked that the guests please fill out application on the website. Dixon asked if there were fines on the runs since the December meeting and then explained the fines to the guests. Pat Brady spoke up and reminded everyone that it is OK to be stuck on the snow run; that is the whole point of that type of run. Terra-forming (this is a new Bradyism, you will not find it in your Webster dictionary). This is something that Cliff Meier performed on

the snow run. Apparently, that is not usual to a snow run, but he was ordered to pay a \$1.00 fine.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:** Questa decision: Mark Werkmeister wrote up two appeals. One pointed out that their analysis was improper and the other pointed out that their Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) reports for Red River provided no proof of motor vehicles causing damage. ABQ Journal posted an on-line article about the appeals that Mark wrote, and the Albuquerque Journal pulled them off the AP. In Taos, the BLM is trying to do a land swap with one of the pueblos. It involves BLM land that is an OHV area, mainly used by 2 wheel enthusiasts.

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

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

PAST EVENTS:

**January – New Year’s Eve at Gordy’s Hill:** Jeff Boggs & Jeff Rector – Met at staging area on 12/31/11 at 9:00 about 7 vehicles. Hidden Valley trail was ran 1<sup>st</sup>. Then everyone took a lunch break, Jeff said that it was somewhere (I was there and I don’t remember where we were exactly). There was another group out there having fun too. Then in the afternoon we ran Coyote Canyon. Frank Whiston and his friend, Clint Hobart, had to leave after getting us to the trail head. After that we all went to back to staging area and loaded up and headed to Socorro Springs for dinner and an adult beverage. Some brought in the New Year in a hotel room in Socorro and some made the drive back home for the night and brought in the New Year asleep in their own bed.

**Snow Run in the Jemez:** Pat & Sue Brady. This run was also on New Year’s Eve. It was a run in the snow before the gates were shut and locked for the winter season. There were 4 vehicles. First thing that they did was try to get up the hill to Holiday Mesa. They could only make it up to the gate. Snow was crusty, but they would lose momentum when they fell through the top of the snow. So, they decided to go down to Deer Creek Road. Vehicles soon became stuck all over the place. Bailey, the wonder dog had a run in with a stick but is recovering nicely (I will learn to type this all out before I forget the rest of the story).

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**End of January:** Jeff Boggs & Cliff Meier – Jeff has decided that the Riley Ghost Town run will be in March this year, not be in January as it was last year.

**Quebrada Road:** Cliff Meier may lead this run. He will head out Quebrada and then come out on 380. Then they may try to have lunch at Buckthorn, (winner of the best Chile Cheese burger) and then go on and do Box Canyon after that. This would be a very long day.

**February 2012 – CHILE CHALLENGE IS ON!!!!:** Cliff Meier had raffle tickets for those interested to take.

**Spring Quarterly:** April 20 -21 in or near Alamogordo, New Mexico

**Moab:** Cliff Meier – check website for details – May 9 to 13<sup>th</sup>  
Make reservations ASAP, group will be heading out from Arch View RV Park.

**Summer Quarterly in Silverton in July.** Details on web site.

***Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site –  
Lots of activities on the website for next year.***

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** Shirts are finally here. He brought the short sleeve, but not the long sleeve shirts, with him tonight. He got the costs of 25 hoodies. Only color would be gray with 1 small logo on front. We would need to charge at least \$31 each for our cost. For 2X or 3X sizes, it will be even more. Several members made comments that this was very expensive. Hats are \$8.75 each for 48 of them. An order of 24 is \$15 apiece. Jason Lavy was going to a friend, who has since passed away, but he was charging Jason much less when Jason was Program Chairmen. Tracy has a friend who estimated what his charges would be and they were more. Zia’s has a screen and it shouldn’t cost that much. Bob Provance feels that Zia is the most expensive. Mary Turpin volunteered to give Tracy a contact at the place her school uses. He will check on plain sweatshirts and to see what they would charge to put a logo on garments that we can bring in to them ourselves; he will have that next week. Cliff Meier explained the 50/50 raffle to the guests. A Desert Rat \$25 gift certificate will also be given away (I’m sure that the big “thank you” that resounded was to Darren). Santa Fe REI in Santa Fe is a 5013C. They are hosting a “Friends of the National Forest” volunteer group and the meeting is 7pm on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. Can send an email if you are interested.

**HISTORIAN’S REPORT – Glenn Viaondo:** Reminded everyone to put pictures on Picasa. And he said this with very little prompting from all who were present at the meeting.

**WEB-MEISTER’S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** Wants to know if everyone can get into the web-site. Several members were still having problems. He volunteered to stay after to have “one-on-one’s” with them. Don reported that there were 35 members that have logged into the website in the last 2 weeks; normally there are usually 30 or so. Don then gave us a “heads-up” that new website is being worked on. The home page of the club’s site is crowded and he, with help from his son, will try to clean it up. But everything should be about the same. Don wrote our web-site program for his old club and he has reworked it for our club. But, our club is different and he feels that the website will be more suiting for our club if it were reconfigured from a family log-in to an individual log-in. Also, the truck pages will be reformatted so that you can have a truck page for each vehicle or a truck page for each family member, whatever will work best. Even though it is a family membership for the club, the web-site will be geared to



individuals and vehicles. Videos will be opened up, so if you have your truck on You-Tube, you can put a link to it on the web-site. If you lead a ride, you can edit the event, even if you are not a member and you can attach videos of the event to the website too. The update will give us the ability to view all of the Picasa pictures from the website. Picasa will still be there for editing and such, but we will be able to view it from the club website. Picasa and NM4W.org will be integrated. New website introduction has been assigned a target date for introduction at the May meeting. As far as the access from mobile phones/smart phones, this is still an issue as it views very large. Suggestion was made that it go to facebook. Other suggested issues were discussed: One was about the registration for SWFWDA. It was discussed as to whether this is a viable option for all events that the club hosts. It was agreed that it would be best to keep things as they are.

**EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** If you have articles – send them to him. Also, if you have an article for SWFWDA's Drive Lines (SWFWDA's quarterly newsletter), please send it to [editor@swfwda.org](mailto:editor@swfwda.org). Articles don't have to be about an event. Club is willing to include anything that you might think was interesting and it has to do with 4-Wheeling and associated type of vehicles, just get it into Phil.

## WANTED - TRAIL LEADERS

### OLD BUSINESS:

**Summer Quarterly 2012** – February 1<sup>st</sup> is the start date of Pay pal. **Schedule of Events:** July 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Frank G & Beth Whiston will be there doing pre-runs prior to SWFWDA people getting there. Wednesday night begins registration, which is a \$60 fee. **Included with fee:** Friday night meal and breakfast burritos on Saturday morning.

In order to pay for pre-registration, you can use pay-pay if you want.

**NEW BUSINESS :** Cliff Meier reminded us that hosts are needed for summer meetings. Cliff explained how the summer meetings work to the guests. They are held at people's homes with a pot luck before the meeting. We don't have the room here at the church for our March meeting, so, the meeting will be at Fuddruckers on I-25 at 7:00pm. You can eat there before or after the meeting if you want. Fuddruckers has a room in back for us to use. Some present pointed out some areas that have free meeting rooms that we may want to consider should we have a need in the future.

### New members voted in:

Diane Goodman – all voted yea  
Ken Davis – all voted yea

Pay your dues.

**A BIG THANKS to the Meiers (Jeanne to get all the credit), who hosted the January meeting!!!**

**Raffle Winners:**

50/50: Cliff Meier (he gets out of cooking and then I bet he got to keep all of the money)  
Desert Rat \$25 Gift Certificate: Jeff Boggs



**President's Report**

by Cliff Meier

There is no President's report this month.

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

By Frank Whiston

NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.

There is no Environmental Affairs report this month.

**Gordys Hill Trip Report**

By Jeff Boggs

The New Year's weekend down at Gordy's Hill was all done on Dec. 31st, Saturday. We had 7 4x4's show up about 9:00 am. A quick meeting and a destination was chosen.

Frank Whiston knew how to get to Hidden Valley, so we followed him into the canyon. Picasa pics will show the cow who guards the entrance. The entrance to Hidden Valley begins with a tough dry waterfall, with loose rocks scattered all about. Most all had to give it several tries, a tow strap was even needed.



Jeff and Lauri Rector brought their brand new RED RUBICON JK 4 DOOR to this ride, and they tested it at every obstacle. It works!



Paul Caskey has now figured out what to do with all those gear shifters that he has in his YJ.

After lunch, we finished this trail, and headed over to Coyote Canyon. Frank showed us the way into it, but he and his friend drove on back to Albuquerque.

Coyote Canyon is a busy moderate trail, and a lot of fun.

Cliff found a way to lift up the front of his TJ. Let me try to explain. Cliff drove into a tough section. Very rocky, with ledges, and a tight turn between trees and cliff face. Somehow, Cliff was able to grab the tip of a large slab rock with his front axle and driving forward, the slab raised up vertically. Cliff's forward progress became vertical progress, as the TJ turned the 2 foot slab straight up while supporting the front of his Jeep. Please see Picasa pic. You had to see it to believe it. Jeff Rector suggested that he should continue forward, as this would have helped clear the ledge. But I had him back up to dislodge the slab from his axle. Rector's idea would have probably worked. Anyway Cliff got through the section.

Jack Dickey wanted to see if Jeff Boggs could get his LJ up a verticle waterfall, near the end of the trail. After several attempts, this proved impossible that day. But not without at least 5 tries.

We finished off that trail and went back to the staging area to air up. We all decided to go into Socorro, NM and eat at Socorro Springs restaurant. Great food and drink, and we all had a great time. Nobody camped out there, as in years past. We will have to try that in warmer weather.

Thanks for all those who made it down there. Each time we go there, we find out how great an area this is.

## Check this out – and a possible trip

By Mark Wolf

Did you read last year's article on "Overlanding" in **Four Wheeler** magazine? There is an expo held each year and for the last few years has been held in Arizona. This year it is May 18-20 at Mormon Lake, Arizona (in the pines just south and little east of Flagstaff). Here you can see all kinds of camping items, vehicles, etc. for all kinds of overlanding trips you may want to take. Now, I realize there are things at this event that may not interest everyone (I cannot afford a trip around the world in my four wheel drive vehicle either!), but there are things there that are really cool. I plan to visit the event this year and check out all the cool stuff on display. Check out [www.overlandexpo.com](http://www.overlandexpo.com) for details. Prices for viewing the show are only \$15 per person/per day. If you want to participate in the events, it costs considerably more.

Maybe we can put together a group and set up somewhere around Flagstaff and then go four wheeling around there after the event on Saturday. My friend lives in Prescott Valley, Arizona and he can lead us down towards Sedona for a little adventure. There are vast numbers of RV places and also USFS campgrounds nearby that we can use. I will be accepting emails for interest, so let me know. [aesthchln@q.com](mailto:aesthchln@q.com) (this means "aesthetically challenged", a term that was granted to my old "three toned" Commando years ago by my "friends"... ) Wolfie

## Need a Good Differential Cover?

By Mark Wolf

Are you looking for new differential covers for your Jeep, Bronco or four wheel drive vehicle? Well there are a plethora of them available from various sources, but I have found the cheapest ones to date. These are very well made and heavily built. Put them on with a new **Lube Locker** ([www.lubelocker.com](http://www.lubelocker.com)) gasket (reusable) and you can enjoy an easy way to change your differential fluids once a year AND be stylish as well. Check out: [www.solidaxle.com](http://www.solidaxle.com) . The only drawback is that they say "SOLID" on them, but if you don't mind that you can get the covers for \$65 each regardless of the type differential you have on your vehicle. This company also fabricates replacement differentials (Cliff has one) and can make you a new front or rear axle for your vehicle.



## FOR SALE

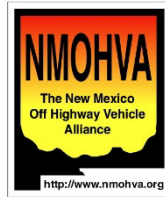
By Paul Caskey

FOR SALE: 50% OFF coupon toward any Black Diamond or Superlift product. \$250 OBO. (<http://www.superlift.com/suspension/black-diamond.asp>) No expiration date. Contact Paul Caskey at 505-796-4907.

Check out the website for more great deals!

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Pres@nm4w.org">Pres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 891-8517 <a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a>
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## Meeting Minutes

From February 9, 2011  
by Mark Wolf



President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

President Meier explained that Jeff Rector was admitted to the hospital with another blood clot in his lungs (second in three months) yesterday (after being involved in an accident that morning going to work!) and that Mark Wolf would be taking the minutes for Lauri Rector. Mike Coe stated he had gone to see Jeff this morning and noted that he may be released tomorrow depending upon the action of the Cumiden (blood thinners). Our thoughts and prayers go out to Jeff & Lauri.

Present were members: Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Pat & Sue Brady, Mike & Kristy Coe, Guy Conway, Craig Courtright and Vicki Medlin, Erwin Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Bob & Carol Provance, Tedd Romero and Judy Sandoval, Chris Sears, Bob Telepak, Mark Werkmeister, Mark Wolf, and Tahoe Zahn

President Meier asked for visitors to stand and state their name, how they heard about NM4W and what they drive.

Travis Bakewell stood up and told us his name and said he had been “driving Hummers and tanks and stuff”, but now drives a Grand Cherokee. He was a guest of his parents – Cheryle & Tracy Bakewell. President Meier welcomed him and stated he must be Cody’s “little brother” – NOT.

**Secretaries report** was tossed around a while before someone finally made a motion to dispense with reading the minutes (actually they wanted a better looking Secretary! Go figure!). It was passed unanimously.

**Treasurer Report** – Jason Lavy was not present. President Meier noted there is approximately \$3300 in the bank. Cheryle Bakewell gave Cliff Meier \$100 for deposit from T-shirt sales.

**Trip Report** – Mark Wolf noted there were no trips last month (sad occurrence for a Four Wheel Drive Club!) However, there are several upcoming trips.

Chile Challenge – February 22-26 – Las Cruces, NM – All levels of experience and a gigantic raffle! Cliff talked about the raffle and how many goodies he will be giving away. He noted he has a winch and maybe a set of tires, plus lots of other goodies.

Riley Ghost Town Run – March 24<sup>th</sup> - Jeff Boggs, Trip Leader, noted that he is looking forward to this run as it was the last run he had an opportunity to run with former (and passing) members Chuck Peeples and Russ Kaz. It is an easy run and all vehicles are welcome. This is a very scenic and historic trail ride. Jeff will lead everyone down from the WalMart in Belen at 9:00 AM.

Quebradas Loop Run – March 25<sup>th</sup> – Cliff Meier stated this is an easy run (unless there is snow/rain) and that all vehicles are welcome. It will start at the RV park in Bernardo (Exit 175 off I-25. Come down for the entire weekend and do both runs from that location. Cliff has talked with the park owners and they welcome our group.

NMOHVA Annual Meeting – March 31 - Mark Wolf noted that this is really an important meeting for NMOHVA and that all are encouraged to attend to understand what NMOHVA is doing and how they plan to move forward for the upcoming year. It is at this church on a Saturday at 9:00 AM. FREE to attend!

Vice President Report – Dixon had no fines (of course, there were no runs!!!). He talked about the qualifications for membership and the point system. He encouraged guests to apply on-line to get their names spelled correctly the first time.

SWFWDA Spring Quarterly - April 20-22 in Ruidoso/Alamogordo, NM Please attend to support SWFWDA and the Ruidoso Ridge Runners and Desert Mountain 4 Wheel Drive Clubs.

Moab, UT – May 9-13 – Cliff Meier leading. Make reservations now.

SWFWDAA Summer Quarterly – July 27-29 in Silverton, CO. See Frank Whiston for details and also on line.

## WANTED - TRAIL LEADERS

**Program Chairman Report** – Tracy stated that he had raffle tickets for a 50-50 raffle tonight and how much the tickets were. He will draw a winner after the meeting. He also stated he had merchandise available (T-shirts, etc.) for sale. He talked about ordering hoodie sweatshirts from another source in town as Zia Graphics were not organized and required 25 minimum on orders of merchandise. The other Company would allow for a minimum of 12. After much discussion a motion was made and passed to allow him to order 12 regular sweatshirts AND 12 hats (different logo due to size of current logo) from the new company and see how that goes.

**Historian** – Glenn Vialpando was not present.

**Website Guru** – Don noted that the Forum was disbanded due to lack of use. The revamp of the website is in process and would like to provide space for a “personal profile”. It was decided that this would be ok and if not used it would be deleted. He also noted that Picasa photos can be accessed from the website now. You can’t upload them, but can access and view them. A new list of Officers and their proper email addresses will be forthcoming very soon. Some people are using old addresses and these will not work. Look for the list on the website. *(Note: The correct addresses are also at the end of this newsletter.)*



**Old Business** – Cliff asked the membership if they would sponsor \$500 worth of tickets for the SWFWDA Annual Raffle to be held at the Chile Challenge. A motion was made and passed unanimously to buy \$500 worth of tickets.

Frank Whiston was not able to attend due to a business trip, but Cliff noted that reservations for the Summer Quarterly in Silverton, CO need to be made soon for the campground as July is a busy time for them. Also, on-line registration will be open this coming week.

**New Business** – Cliff asked for volunteers to host the summer meetings. Dixon and Zelda Patrick agreed to host the May meeting and Bob & Carol Provance agreed to host the July meeting. Mark Wolf brought up the annual picnic and stated that Joan had made reservations for June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Oak Flats Picnic Grounds. This is currently on the calendar and everyone was in agreement with the date.

Cliff reminded everyone that next month's meeting will be at the Fuddrucker's Restaurant at I-25, south of Jefferson (west side of I-25) - regular time of 7:00PM.

Cliff thanked (and the crowd applauded) the Coe's for hosting the meeting with goodies in lieu of the Rector's.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM

Congratulations to the Brady's for winning the 50-50 raffle.

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



## **President's Report**

by Cliff Meier

January went by so fast I completely forgot about an article for the newsletter! Some would say that wasn't much of a loss!! February is going by just as fast with the Chile Challenge and the SWFWDA Raffle coming right up. I hope to see many club members in Las Cruces at this year's Chile Challenge. It's really a special event, the largest off road event in New Mexico with some of the most challenging trails in New Mexico and easier trails too. With the continued efforts by the closure folks each year, each year could be the last.

If you are one of the members who don't understand what is happening with the government's, i.e., Forest Service and BLM, travel management planning process take a few minutes and view the video on the website, Access Denied-Closing Our Forests. It focuses on what has and is happening in California but the same things are coming to a state near you, namely New Mexico! Unfortunately, we have had only a few club members get involved in this process trying to save motorized access to our public lands. Too many of our club members seem to have the attitude of let some else do it! With that attitude, our Jeeps will become garage queens or mall crawlers! Please

get involved, contact Frank Whiston or Mark Werkmeister to find out you can do. I realize I sound “preachy” this month and I meant to be. If we all don’t get active in defending our hobby/sport we won’t have one in the future.

We are still looking for a volunteer to host the August meeting this summer. The June meeting will be the annual picnic, June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Oak Flats Picnic Ground in the East Mountains.

Speaking of volunteers, if you noticed we didn’t have any runs in late Jan or Feb. No one volunteered to lead one. It’s not that hard to lead a run. One thought would be a snow run on Cedro Peak or Cabezon & North Rio Puerco (NMVJC has a write in their forum on this easy run).

That’s about all for now.

**See everyone at Fuddruckers for the March meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>.**

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

By Frank Whiston

NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.

This month, I would like to encourage NM4W members to attend the NMOHVA Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held Saturday, March 31st at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church located at Academy/Moon in Albuquerque. The Annual Meeting is a great way to meet your Board of Directors, hang out with fellow motorized enthusiasts, and get a free lunch! During our business meeting from 9:00-12:00, we will review the past year, elect/re-elect members of the Board, and listen to your ideas.

This year, New Mexico continues to be very active with Travel Management as we expect the Santa Fe and Gila National Forests to release Environmental Impact Statements for travel management. Right now is the time to get involved!

Do you want you help make things happen? Have a passion for OHV recreation? Want to give back to the sport that provides you with so much fun? Consider joining NMOHVA's Board of Directors. We will be electing a President, Secretary, Recreation Resource Director and one Director-at-Large at the annual meeting. NMOHVA is also looking to fill the vacant positions of Vice-President and Treasurer for the remainder of their terms. Please contact NMOHVA President Mark Winscott (prez@nmohva.org) or any of the NMOHVA Board of Directors if you want to know what is involved in being a Board member.

Don’t forget to sign up for the [NMOHVA Annual Meeting](#) on the NM4W website ☺

# Chile Challenge Raffle

By Joan Wolf

Here are a couple of “teaser” pictures from the Chile Challenge Raffle. We hope to have a full report next month. (Sorry, the Dodge wasn't part of the raffle – its just cool!)



***Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site –  
Lots of activities on the website for next year.***

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Pres@nm4w.org">Pres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 891-8517 <a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:treas@nm4w.org">treas@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 <a href="mailto:prog@nm4w.org">prog@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 <a href="mailto:history@nm4w.org">history@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Trip Chairman</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:trails@nm4w.org">trails@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Frank Whiston 292-1541 <a href="mailto:land@nm4w.org">land@nm4w.org</a>	<b>SWFWDA Delegate</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <a href="mailto:n5epa@flash.net">n5epa@flash.net</a>
Web Site Administrator <a href="mailto:webadmin@nm4w.org">webadmin@nm4w.org</a>		





# Trail Tales



April 1, 2012

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From March 8, 2012

by Lauri Rector



The meeting was held at Fuddrucker's due to a scheduling conflict at the church for March.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm.

**GUESTS:** Jack Cooper – '12 Rubicon Unlimited, Richard Brooks – '07 Rubicon, Robert (Bob) and Sandy Powell '04 Rubicon, Thomas and Jenni Lavigne – Nissan, David and Teri McHenry – '12 Rubicon Unlimited, JoAnn Gray – Ford Escape, Don Whittenburg – '04 TJ, Ben Dackiewicz – TJ, Ralph Mora – '86 Dodge (his real toy) and Kathryn Chavez, Rokwel Wade, Mike Thorson, Travis Bakewell

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tracy and Cheryle Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Mike & Kristy Coe, Craig Courtright, Jack & Cathy Dickey, Erwin Greven, Ron Hyman, Jennifer Jacobs, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Mark Mullin III, Bob Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil Rodacy, Don Roy, Tom Sandoval Sr., Glenn & Rebagayle Vialpando, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Tahoe Zahn

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** Don Roy was at last month's meeting but not listed as an attendee. I'm going to let Mark Wolf take the fall for that one, even though he was nice enough to fill in for me. It was voted to dispense of the reading of the minutes. Please peruse at your leisure on line; it's faster and much more fun.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** \$3,134.54. It was agreed that he would email the amount to me rather than having to repeat it at every meeting.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick: Played this month by Frank Whiston:** He reviewed the points system for prospective and current members. How many to earn and why. The web-site has the details on the point system. No fines were assessed from Chile Challenge. I thought Jeff Rector should have been fined due to engine problems. He disagreed, arguing that I didn't have to walk. There was a brief explanation of fines.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston: Played by himself.** Santa Fe and Gila Forest decision is still not in. We are expecting a battle as their assessments were not favorable to motorized use. It's a good idea to go to the NMOVA annual meeting.

# WANTED - TRAIL LEADERS

## TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mark Wolf:

### PAST EVENTS:

**None mentioned**

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**March 24<sup>th</sup> – Riley Ghost Town – Jeff Boggs:** The road to Riley is fine. A lot of locked gates have shown up since last time the club went there. You can see the ghost town, but we can't do the loop that they did last year. You can go through a gate that says US Forest Service – not sure how far it goes. This may be another road that could be fun. If it's muddy it could be bad; the road has 10" ruts. If dry, we may not need 4 wheel drive very much. There is the Kiva RV Park at the Bernardo exit and hotels in Belen if you want to do an overnighner. All that are coming in that morning will be meeting at the Wal-Mart in Belen at 8 am and then there will be a stop at the Kiva RV Park to pick up everyone who camped there the night before.

**March 25<sup>th</sup> – Quebrados Back Road – Cliff Meier:** will also go by Bosque del Apache. If there is enough time, he will also do Box Canyon.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> – NMHOVA Annual Meeting.** NMHOVA represents all off-roading in New Mexico. This group is very involved in the National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Travel Management agenda and processes.

**April 7<sup>th</sup> – Cablezon Ghost Town and Guadalupe Indian Ruins - Cliff Meier:** If you are up for some history and scenery, then this rides for you! It is an easy run suitable for stock vehicles except if the weather is wet. Then it can be challenging.

Cablezon Ghost town is one of the original upper Rio Puerco towns with about 15 buildings remaining, including a church, cemetery, main street, houses, etc. Unfortunately it is on private property so we will only be able to see it from the road. We will continue on to the base of Cablezon and then off to the Guadalupe Ruins.

The Guadalupe Ruins are a BLM site which is a Chacoan Outlier Site of Chaco Canyon which is about 65 mile northwest. The ruins are on the top of Guadalupe Mesa at the end of the run. There are an estimated 25 rectangular rooms and three kivas, two of which have been excavated. Some of the walls have rebuilt and stabilized. There is a .1 mile very steep trail with an 100' elevation gain to the ruins from the parking area. **For the climb you need hiking shoes. Cowboy boots and such will be dangerous.**

Check the website for photos, a video, and more details.

**Spring Quarterly:** April 20 -21 in or near Alamogordo, New Mexico. See web-site for more details.

**May 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> – Moab - Cliff Meier:** check website for details. Make reservations ASAP. See web-site for details. Guy Conway will be leading the trails on Friday and on Saturday; Cliff will be leading an easy scenic trail.

Summer Quarterly in Silverton in July. Details on web site.

***Please be sure to check out the calendar on the  
web site –  
lots of stuff on the website for the year.***

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** Brought artwork samples for sweatshirts and hats. They can't do the same logo for the hats because their stitching machine is not capable. He passed around the samples for members to mark their vote, he needed a decision by the end of the meeting on what we want him to order and get a check from the Treasurer. He was going to get in our order the next day.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Vialpando:** Reminded everyone to put Chile Challenge pictures on Picasa. And he said this with very little prompting from all who were present at the meeting.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** Nothing new to mention this month. Still getting new web-site ready for the unveiling at a meeting in the very near future.

**EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** I think Cliff forgot about him or I fell asleep. I didn't have any notes for this section.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Summer Quarterly 2012 – Schedule of Events:** July 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Frank G & Beth Whiston's will be there doing pre-runs prior to SWFWDA people getting there. Wednesday night begins registration, which is a \$60 fee. Included with the fee is a Friday night meal and breakfast burritos on Saturday morning.

You can pay for pre-registration by using pay-pay if you want.

Expenditures for insurance and deposits will need to be paid soon from the club treasury.

Need to get trail leaders and tail gunners to volunteer to help out with the trail rides.

No cabins at the host campground, they are all booked.

Update on the Treasure Hunt: Tahoe Zahn has some vendors that want to donate and participate. However, Forest Service has encouraged him to wait to do anything in the Jemez due to draught and high fire danger.

Still need a host for the August summer meeting. Cliff explained that the summer meetings were held at club member homes – with a pot luck before the meeting.

Outcome from the raffle tickets the club purchased from SWFWDA; this raffle is a fund raiser for the Land Use Fund for SWFWDA. The club won the following prizes: Flair Hair visor (donated by Harold Off from years past) – 10% off 4 Pit Bull Tires - \$50 off auto custom carpets – Day star winch isolator – heavy duty snatch block – polish cleaner.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ron Hyman is moving to Seattle with his wife Becca and their daughter, Isabella. They will follow along with the club through the website and he is interested in becoming an associate member this summer.

4-Wheel Drive and Sport Utility is publishing an article by mark Werkmeister on Southern Colorado.

Ben Dackiewicz was voted in as a new member

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** 7:43 pm

**Raffle Winners:**

50/50 was \$42.00: Mike Coe

Borla Exhaust Cap: Craig Courtwright (I think)

Borla Chrome Exhaust Cleaner: Sue Brady

10% off Pitt Bull tires: Sue Brady

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



**President's Report**

by Cliff Meier

The attendance at the March meeting was outstanding! We more than filled the side room at Fuddruckers. Along with all the regular members we had a bunch of guests. Maybe we should hold more dinner meetings. Along with normal business we decided on a new ball cap design. By our April meeting we should have a good supply of T shirts and ball caps. Get yours while there is a good selection.

It's not too early to start thinking about the NM4W Outstanding Member of the year award which in the past has been voted on at the June picnic. The objective is to recognize a club member that has significantly contributed to the club and/or the 4X4 sport in the past year. For the past couple of years the voting has been pretty light. I am looking at maybe trying vote online so more folks can be



involved. The SOPs define the vote as “**At the last meeting in June of each year, each Member may vote by secret ballot for the person of his/her choice to be "Outstanding Member", who will be awarded with a trophy, plaque, or certificate.**” We can discuss this during the April meeting.

Coming up this summer is the election of officers at the July meeting. Each year not many members volunteer to run for office. As a result the same group tends to rotate the officer positions year after year. While the club is very appreciative of this dedicated group, new blood and ideas, etc. helps keep a club strong. So, please think about volunteering. All the officer positions are open for election each year. I have served for two terms as president and being a strong believer in term limits, it's time for someone else to fill the position. You can nominate someone or yourself either by sending me an e-mail, [sarmeier@yahoo.com](mailto:sarmeier@yahoo.com), or at the July meeting.

There are a number of runs and events coming up. Check out the calendar on the website but have room for more, all that is needed is someone to volunteer to lead them. Maybe a Gordy's Hill run during April before it too hot.

**From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs  
By Frank Whiston  
NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.**

This month, I have decided to share some research that Joanne Spivack did on the amount of federal land that currently have restrictions in place. This is shocking, and not getting any better with the new [Southwest Jemez Mountains Restoration](#) project getting underway in our backyard! Enough is Enough!

***Guess how much of our federally managed public land is ALREADY under restrictive designations?***

We have 671.8 million acres of public land, managed by 4 agencies. Of that, 109 million acres is in wilderness areas. That means 16% of public lands are already in wilderness. But that doesn't include all the restrictive designations. (21% of New Mexico's total acreage is already designated wilderness)

Let's add up ALL the federally managed lands which are now heavily restricted.

**109 million acres in Wilderness (managed by 4 different agencies)**

**35.1 million acres in non-wilderness lands in National Parks**

**74.4 million acres in non-wilderness lands under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**18.2 million acres in BLM National Conservation System (not including the BLM wilderness acreage)**

**60 million acres in USFS Inventoried Roadless Areas**

**7.3 million acres in USFS under other Congressional designations (national scenic, recreation, historic, volcanic areas etc.)**

GRAND TOTAL: 304 million acres

## **THAT IS 45.2% !!!! Nearly Half of all Federally managed Public Land!**

...and that doesn't include all the other restrictions the USFS and BLM impose, such as 'ACEC's', plus the critical habitat designations from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Example <http://www.fws.gov/home/feature/2012/pdfs/NSO-small.pdf>

The USFWS Final Rule in 2011, for the Northern Spotted Owl, identified 13.9 million acres of critical habitat, which excludes wilderness, national parks and congressionally reserved areas. That's 13.9 million acres of 'multiple-use' land under yet *another* layer of restriction.

## **45.2 % We should be shouting that number from the rooftops.**

Time to tell Congress 'That is enough'.

The environmentalists mount endless campaigns for more restrictions. Why? They will never be satisfied until every scrap of land is locked up under some designation. Their constant trumpeting of 'last pristine threatened unprotected place' is rubbish, almost half the public lands are 'tied up' one way or another. And every acre is protected under NEPA.

The federal government owns about 671.8 million acres (29.6%) of the 2.27 billion acres of land in the United States. Four agencies administer 628.4 million acres (93.5%) of this land, and most of it is in the West.

This means that 13.4% of ALL of the United States is already in restrictive designations. (304 million divided by 2.27 billion)

### **Sources for Numbers:**

**National Park System non-wilderness acreage** NPS has 79 million acres, 43,890,590 is wilderness. **35.1 million acres** of non-wilderness NPS land, all of which is heavily restricted.

**BLM's National Conservation System** has 886 areas and 27 million acres in national monuments, conservation areas, wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, wild and scenic rivers, etc. Now lets subtract the 8,752,349 acres of wilderness in the BLM. That leaves **18.2 million acres** of protected land in addition to wilderness area.

**Inventoried Roadless Areas in the National Forests** are **60 million acres** which restricts road-building, and therefore limits the uses of the land, and seen as 'future Wilderness'.

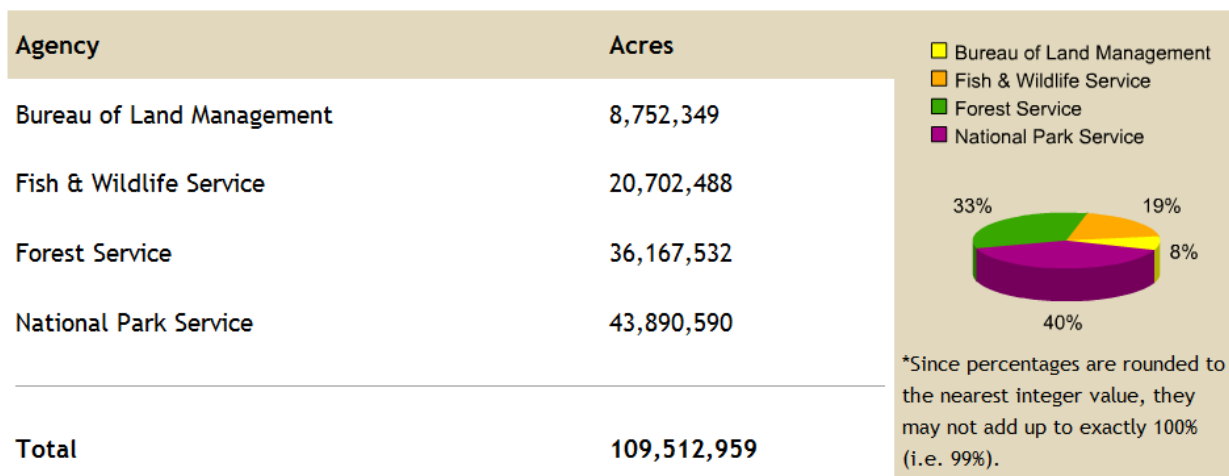
**USFS areas under Congressional designations:** Historic Landmarks, Volcanic Monuments, Historic Scenic Areas, Scenic Recreation Areas, Recreation Areas These are listed at <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/cda/special-areas.shtml> These add up to 7,385, 858 acres.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 95.4 million acres, 20.7 million in wilderness, 74.7 million in non-wilderness**

From

<http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=NWPS&sec=chartResults&chartType=acreagebyagency>

Wilderness Acreage By Agency



Here are the basic numbers for the 4 land management agencies: from the Congressional Research Service CRS <http://www.nationalaglawcenter.org/assets/crs/RL32393.pdf>

The National Wilderness Preservation System, established by Congress in 1964, includes over 700 areas in 44 states totaling more than **109 million acres**.

**The federal government owns about 671.8 million acres (29.6%) of the 2.27 billion acres of land in the United States.** Four agencies administer 628.4 million acres (93.5%) of this land: the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service, all in the Department of the Interior. Most of these lands are in the West, including Alaska.

The **Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 261.5 million acres**, and is responsible for 700 million acres of subsurface mineral resources. The **Forest Service (FS) manages 192.5 million acres**

The **Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) manages 95.4 million acres** The **National Park Service (NPS) manages 79.0 million acres** of federal land (and oversees another 5.4 million acres of nonfederal land)



**FROM OUR TRIP CHAIRMAN**  
**Mark Wolfe**

Folks, I wanted to remind all of you members (and guests for that matter) that this club has a VERY generous award for the most points AND the most trips lead per year! So it is really confusing why we don't have Trip Leaders. It is not the responsibility of the Trip Chairman to lead all the trips. Sorry, but that is not possible. My vehicles are broken down as they are getting old and we don't have the coin to purchase new ones. Debt is not something we need to incur at this stage of our life, especially with the uncertainty of the economy. So, why don't all of you volunteer to lead a trip?

We have a complete glossary of trip locations that you could pick from, or even better, you could lead something that we don't have on our list! It is fun to take others with you and let them in your secret.

**Everyone is itching to get out on the trail, so volunteer! It won't hurt you a bit.**

I wanted to take a moment to thank Jeff Boggs for a great trip last weekend. Mr. Boggs lead a great trip and he had 22 vehicles! He did an excellent job of keeping things moving, which is really important with a bunch of vehicles. We wished we could have gone with Cliff & Jeannie the following day, but it wasn't in the cards for us. I'm sure it too was a great trip!

Thanks to both member families (although, we missed you Paula).

Your Trip Chairman,  
Mark Wolf



## **RILEY, NM TRIP REPORT**

**By Jeff Boggs**

The New Mexico 4Wheelers and guests got together early on Saturday morning, 3/24/2012, at the Belen, NM Wal-Mart parking lot, to tackle an all day trek to the ghost town of Riley, NM.

Everybody showed up on time, and after a driver's meeting and sign in we took off down I-25, south. We got off at the Kiva RV turn off and met up with the camper portion of this "wagon train". We were early, so it was a good time to visit, air down and meet some new guests, and talk 4x4's.

The first part of this trip to Riley involves a washboard dirt road that goes west, circling around the north of Ladron peak. It takes all of 28 miles to get to Riley. Lots of dust, cholla forests, and great views of Ladron peak made this the 2 wheel drive portion of this run.

Once we went into the Rio Salada river valley, the group came to the "Fork in the Road" and took a right turn. We would take the group of 23 4x4's to the 4 low portion of the trip. This is a primitive road that uses the dry arroyo as the road, for a while. In the arroyo, there are rocks and ledges and those can be driven over or around per driver's choice.

A few ledges were good photo opportunities. Jack and Cathy got their blue Blazer hung up and needed a strap for a rescue. Thanks to Mike Arndt, guest, for the assistance. Jeeps save Chevys and Chevys save Jeeps, etc. Which reminds me that there were 2 H3 Hummers on this ride. Bob and Carol were there, but also a guest who had just moved here from the Baltimore area. Jennifer C. had only been in town for a few days and she was ready to "wheel". I like her priorities! Big change from green Maryland. Hope she can cope with the big differences. We told her that the club mountain runs are "greener". She did say she enjoyed this high desert scenery. She even put a dent and a scrape in her H3.

We found a good lunch site about 12 noon. We had 7 guests along. They brought a Ram 2500, a Ram 1500, H3 Hummer, Landcruiser, Nissan truck, and 2 Jeep Rubicons. All vehicles handled this ride without incident.

We left the arroyo portion of the ride after lunch, and drove south along a twisting, rough 4 low road. We entered another arroyo and drove to the turn around area. There is a large dry sandstone waterfall, with a washed out dirt road that parallels it. Some drivers took their 4x4's to the bottom of the road. We had a choice on driving back up the dirt road to the top or try the sandstone climb. The road is washed out, so that was a challenge in itself. Several people tried the waterfall. This waterfall has a rather tight line up the north side that can be done with a spotter. Too much lean to the right and body damage can be given to the roof of your vehicle. Too far to the left and you could fall into the deep fissure down the middle. All made it, thanks to the "Cheer Leaders". Thanks for the encouragement.

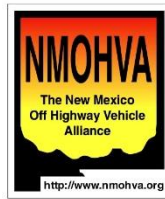
We turned the group around and backtracked to the "Fork In The Road". It was time to see the ruins of Riley, NM. Did anybody see the boat beside the road, next to the river? This area was farming and mining area in the 1800's. Mining was coal and manganese. The water table dropped and farming changed to ranching. The mines played out. There is a church, cemetery, old school house, and several adobe walls. We stopped there, got pics and did more visiting. Time to head back to civilization via the dirt road. More dust!!!!

Thanks to Erwin for tailgunner duties. Thanks to everyone for a great day. Hope everybody had a great time. Looking forward to the next NM4W ride somewhere in the great state of New Mexico!

Photos will be placed on Picasa soon.

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Pres@nm4w.org">Pres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 891-8517 <a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:treas@nm4w.org">treas@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 <a href="mailto:prog@nm4w.org">prog@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 <a href="mailto:history@nm4w.org">history@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Trip Chairman</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:trails@nm4w.org">trails@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Frank Whiston 292-1541 <a href="mailto:land@nm4w.org">land@nm4w.org</a>	<b>SWFWDA Delegate</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <a href="mailto:n5epa@flash.net">n5epa@flash.net</a>
Web Site Administrator <a href="mailto:webadmin@nm4w.org">webadmin@nm4w.org</a>		





# Trail Tales



May 1, 2012

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

From April 12, 2012

by Lauri Rector



The meeting was back at the church again. Our host for the meeting was Joan Wolf (I'm sure that Mark was providing moral support).

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm

**GUESTS:** Richard Brooks – '07 Rubicon, Jennifer Chapin – Hummer H3, Thomas and Jenni Lavigne – Nissan, Thomas Wilson – Subaru Outback, Bob & Sandy Powell – '04 Rubicon, Tom Glenn – I did not catch what Tom was driving, Joann Gray – Ford Escape

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tracy Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Pat & Sue Brady, Paul Caskey, Craig Courtright, Terry Ellis, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Jennifer Jacobs, Linda Jurey, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavy, Cliff & Jeanie Meier, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy, Tom Sandoval Sr., Glenn & Rebagayle Vialpando, Frank G. Whiston, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Joan Wolf, Tahoe Zahn

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** It was agreed and voted, almost unanimously, to dispense with the reading of minutes from the March meeting. Please remember, you can pull them from the website.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** \$3,568.68

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick** (reported by Frank Whiston): Fines were given by Jeff Boggs and were as follows: Jack & Cathie Dickey got stuck on a rock at the Riley Ghost Town run. Cliff Meier punctured a tire on a rock on the same run. (Stupid pesky rocks – they're to blame!!!) Frank explained how fines were assessed and how much they are. He went a little further and explained how guests and/or new members have to pay them. A can is normally provided by the treasurer and kept at the front of the room and they must do a "walk of shame" and put their fine payment into the can. Frank also explained the points system to the guests, including how and why they are earned, and how many are required before you can be voted in as a member. He also explained that points are tracked for current members as well. Each year Desert Rat gift certificates are given to the member with the most points for the member who lead the most trails. Guests were also asked to complete an application form on the website.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:** There is an Access alert for Jemez Mountain restoration project. The Forest Service announced their completion of an Environmental Assessment that encompasses all of the Jemez up to the Valle Calderas. The assessment showed that they do not need as many roads as they currently have. NMHOVA gave suggestions on talking points in making comments back to them. There is already a chance that they have changed their tone and may be taking this area out of the Environmental Assessment. We need to continue to watch this as they may decide to obliterate some existing roads. Environmental Impact Survey is promised by the end of summer for the Gila, with no mention as to what year. The Cibola Forest (Magdalena district) still has issues that we need to keep our eye on. There are studies being done on the Rio Grande water shed district and Gordy's Hill could get caught up on this. Jeannie Grevin shared that this study is focused on the riparian area.

## WANTED - TRAIL LEADERS

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

#### PAST EVENTS:

**March 24<sup>th</sup> – Riley Ghost Town – Jeff Boggs:** Main group met at Wal-Mart in Belen and then headed South on I25 to Kiva RV Park at the Bernardo exit and picked up the rest of the group. About 22 vehicles were present, 7 of which were guests. The group headed to Riley and went through an arroyo road and played at a rock area and then went on another primitive road and took another play break on a cascading waterfall. They stopped for lunch somewhere in between the play areas. Due to the gates being locked recently, the group had to double back to get to the ghost town.

**March 25<sup>th</sup> – Quebrados Back Road – Cliff Meier:** About 6 vehicles did the Quebradas By-Way Loop. There were signs along the way telling about what you are looking at – it has a lot of interesting rocks.

**March 31<sup>st</sup> – NMHOVA Annual Meeting:** NMHOVA represent all forms of off-roading in New Mexico. This group is very involved in the National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Travel Management agenda and processes. Frank Whiston went to the meeting. Jim Tillsey is president, Frank Whiston is Secretary, and Mark Werkmeister is recreation director. NMHOVA brain stormed on projects on the upcoming year. A few motorcycle riders went on a ride to Cedro Peak after the meeting.

**April 7<sup>th</sup> – Cabezon - Cliff Meier:** This was a great turn out with 13 vehicles for this run. Bob Provance use to live out there. Sights included volcanoes, deep, narrow arroyos, and fantastic rock formations. They went to the Ghost town of Guadalupe. Cabezon is a ghost town but you can't get to it. They also explored the Guadalupe ruins, which is an outlier of the Chaco Canyon.



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Spring Quarterly:** April 20 -21 in or near Tularosa, New Mexico. See web-site for more details. This will be a very low key event with only 1 run each day. A lot of people are staying at Boothill RV Park.

**May 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> – Moab - Cliff Meier:** Check the website for details. Make your reservations ASAP. Guy Conway will be leading the trails and has promised to have everyone back to camp before dark (which is long after beer:30).

**May 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Campout in the Jemez - Cliff Meier:** Cliff is not sure what trails will be run yet. If you know of some you'd like to do, please come and lead one. Tahoe Zahn will be organizing a treasure hunt and maybe 4X4 golf, a reflector run, possibly a divorce run. He gave explanation on how each of these events work. The divorce run, where the driver is blindfolded and follows directions given by their spouse in the passenger seat, sounds especially interesting.

**June 9<sup>th</sup> – Annual Picnic – Oak Flat Campground:** This is a picnic area in the East Mountains and it has a large covered shelter with a lot of picnic tables and a play area for the kids. This will be the location of the club's June meeting. More info to come as the date gets closer. Thanks to Joan Wolf for making the arrangements for this event again this year.

**Summer Quarterly in Silverton in July:** Details are posted on the web site. If you are a guest, please contact Frank Whiston to get information. If you have not made reservations, be sure to do so very soon.

***Please be sure to check out the calendar on the  
web site –  
That's where you'll find the most current  
information!***

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** Hats are here!!! Tracy also brought sweatshirts. Stock up now for next year, or just get one and be prepared for the high mountain trips coming later this summer. He also brought gift certificates from our winnings at the SWFWDA raffle to be raffled off tonight with our 50/50 drawing.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Viaondo:** Thanks to everyone that has been posting pictures. Please keep it up.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** He wants to know if anyone is having any problems. He's been working on the new website since last October.

He should be publishing the new web site before the next meeting so that we can play with it. There is no real data on it yet, so it's OK if you accidentally delete anything. He reminded us that each and every person will have their own log-in. If you set it up, be sure and post pictures and information on your rig. Otherwise, Don will post that picture of the 4X4 Yugo on your page. Jeannie Meier offered that the on-line registration for the Quarterly is working very well. If you plan to register, please use this on-line registration.

**EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** Keep sending in articles. Jeff Boggs has set the bar pretty high on writing articles on the trail rides that he leads.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Summer Quarterly 2012 – Schedule of Events:** July 20<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> Frank G & Beth Whiston's will be in Silverton doing pre-runs prior to SWFWDA people getting there. Wednesday night begins registration, for which is a \$60 fee. Included with the fee is a Friday night meal and breakfast burritos on Saturday morning.

Cliff wants to do something different for voting for the 4-Wheeler of the year award. The new website will be set up to be used for votes – it cannot track who votes for whom. The plaque will be awarded at the July meeting. July is also the month that we vote in new officers. You can send nominations to Cliff via email. Cliff promises that the president position is open. Tahoe Zahn offered the “be there or be president” option.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was a discussion of the Memorial weekend and additional events for this weekend – I put this under “upcoming events” in the meeting minutes and will not duplicate them here. It was mentioned that there is a possibility of going on some of the trails in the Jemez that were affected by the fire last year.

Thomas and Jenni Lavigne were voted in as members – after they were asked to stand up again. They were given a very hearty welcome.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** 7:56 pm

A big THANKS to the Wolf (since it was just Joan) for the refreshments.

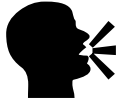
### **Raffle Winners:**

50/50 was \$???? - Don Roy

Jeannie Meier won the Hair Hat

A guest won the NM4W hat and the gift cert for the carpet (sorry, I was napping and didn't get the names)

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



## **President's Report**

by Cliff Meier

As I mentioned last month and discussed at the April meeting, the voting for the NM4W Outstanding Members of the Year will be a little different this year. The objective is to recognize a club member that has significantly contributed to the club and/or the overall 4X4 community over the past year. You will be able to vote on-line or at the June picnic. In early May there will be an announcement on the club website that will allow you to vote there. The voting on-line will be completely blind and you will only be able to vote once. If you can't vote on-line, then you can vote at the picnic. The reason for being able to vote at either place is to encourage more members to vote. For the past couple of years the voting has been pretty light. The winner will receive a plaque and bragging rights

This is a repeat from last month, but it's worth repeating. Coming up this summer is the election of officers at the July meeting. Each year, not many members volunteer to run for office. As a result the same group tends to rotate the officer positions year after year. While the club is very appreciative of this dedicated group, new blood and ideas, etc. helps keep a club strong. So, please think about volunteering. All the officer positions are open for election each year. Job descriptions for the officer positions are on the website in the Standard Operating Procedures. I have served for two terms as president and being a strong believer in term limits, it's time for someone else to fill the position. You can nominate someone or yourself either by sending me an e-mail, [sarmeier@yahoo.com](mailto:sarmeier@yahoo.com), or at the July meeting.

Please make room on your calendars for the picnic June 9<sup>th</sup>. It's always a great time good food and people!

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

**By Frank Whiston**

**NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.**

It may seem that I bring up are closures and restrictions. Although that is an unpleasant fact with public lands in this country, this month I wanted to talk about opportunities that we have ahead of us. Although the land agencies are slashing the miles of roads and trails, there is one positive thing about the travel management rule. We will finally have a set of designated roads and trails. This will make it easier for the club to work with the BLM, forest service, etc. to maintain our recreational resources. I have been on distribution for a volunteer group for the SFNF. They have a lot of activities going on, but they are all for hiking trails. Once there is a designated system of roads and trails for vehicular travel, it should be easier to work with the land agencies and become volunteers. This would be good for us because it would let land managers get to know the club and better understand the way that we use our public lands, potentially opening the door to a more productive relationship for land managers and the club as recreationalists.



## SPRING QUARTERLY TRIP REPORT

BY Frank Whiston

The Desert Mountain 4WD club of Alamogordo hosted the SWFWDA Spring Quarterly meeting April 21, 2012 in Tularosa NM. Along with it, there was an informal invitation to join their club on some of the local trails that Saturday and Sunday. So, the Meiers, Grevens, Whistons, Vialpandos, Don Roy and Janie Shows, Bob Norton, and Don Walker all accepted the invitation. Most of the group arrived Thursday evening and stayed at the

Boothill RV Park, which is situated half way between Tularosa and Alamogordo. Friday morning the group convened near a local feed store to hit the Rattlesnake trail. We joined folks from The Desert Mtn. Club, Ruidoso Ridge Runners, and one couple from the Lone Star Jeep Club of Texas. The trail followed a wash with some play areas on the side.



Buster then lead a small group on an out and back side canyon which was a “hard” option and tons of fun. That day, Bob Norton had a lower control arm break off the axle. Don Walker came to the rescue with his Mobi welder and got him patched up good enough to get him back to town for a better fix offered by one of the local club members.

The rest of the group enjoyed lunch in the shade under an overhanging rock ledge. We then climbed to a high point with a view of the White Sands across the valley. The return trip took us through a scenic canyon with running water.

After the SWFWDA meeting on Saturday, we lined up for the Three Amigos Trail. The group started up Coyote Canyon together to play on some ledges in an



arroyo along the county road. When we hit the 3 Amigos Trail Head, the group split in two. About half went on an easier, scenic drive up Tecolote Canyon while the rest went on Three Amigos, a moderately difficult trail. Since I was on Three Amigos, that is what I will



describe. The trail winded through a tight wash with lots of rocks. This trail kind of reminded me of the Off Broadway trail in Las Cruces. About half way through, Buster stopped to show us an optional climb on the trail. This optional climb was dubbed "And Then Some." Buster explained how it got its name. For the main trail, you need your three amigos to help you through. If you decide to tackle the optional climb, you better have your

three amigos *and then some* to help you through. After a short hike to see the obstacle, it was easy to see how this extreme route got its name. The trail met back at the county road near an obstacle called the articulator. After lunch, the group continued and met up with the folks on the easy route in Upper Coyote Canyon.

It was a great time and I thank the Alamogordo club for showing us some New Mexico wheeling that most of us have not ever experienced before.



## **CABLEZON / GUADALUPE RUINS TRIP REPORT**

**By Cliff Meier**

On April 7, a good sized group of 6 club members and 7 guests gathered at the gas station beside Wendy's at the intersection of Hwy 550 and 528/448 in Bernalillo. We were on our way about 9:00am. We traveled up Hwy 550 past San Ysidro to mile marker 41 turning on Hwy 279 that turned from pavement to gravel. The run was easy; 4 wheel drive was not needed, but we traveled through history and some of the New Mexico's most scenic areas. We had a real treat during the run. Bob Provance had lived in the area years ago and told us numerous stories about his experiences there.

The road ran between high mesas and volcanic towers such Cablezon. Our first stop was at the base of Cablezon passing through the village of San Luis. There is a hiking trail at the base where several intrepid members of our group hiked part of the way up. After leaving Cablezon we stopped to look at the Cablezon ghost town. Cablezon Ghost town is one of the original upper Rio Puerco towns with about 15 buildings remaining, including a church, cemetery, main street, houses, etc.



Unfortunately, it is on private property so we were only able to see it from the road.

After viewing Cablezon ghost town we were then off to the Guadalupe Ruins. On the way we stopped at Homestake Well. This is a running artesian well that Bob said he used to



get water to make his tea from. The road passed through the middle of the ghost town of Guadalupe. There were still several adobe buildings in various stage of decomposition, one of which was a two story hotel. The Guadalupe Ruins are a BLM site which is a Chacoan Outlier Site of Chaco Canyon which is about 65 mile northwest. The ruins are on the top of Guadalupe Mesa. After arriving at the trailhead for the ruins, we had lunch and most of the group hiked to the top. The steep trail was about a tenth of a mile long with a 100 foot elevation gain.

There are an estimated 25 rectangular rooms and three kivas, two of which have been excavated. Some of the walls have been rebuilt and stabilized.

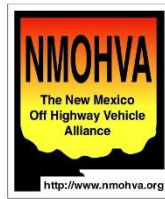


After visiting the ruins we turned around and returned home. This ended our adventure in this remote, wild and scenic area. There are many other roads that will have to be explored during future runs!

**There are many more pictures from our trips on the website Picasa folder. Take a look at them, or better yet, join us on a trip!**

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Pres@nm4w.org">Pres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 891-8517 <a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:treas@nm4w.org">treas@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 <a href="mailto:prog@nm4w.org">prog@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 <a href="mailto:history@nm4w.org">history@nm4w.org</a>
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# Trail Tales



June 1, 2012

Official Newsletter  
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## Meeting Minutes

From Cinco de Mayo, 2012  
by Lauri Rector



Our first summer meeting for 2012 was at the spacious home of Dixon & Zelda Patrick.

The meeting was called to order at 6:21 pm

**GUESTS:** Charles & Linda Poe - '04 TJ Wrangler, Jennifer Chapin – Hummer H3, Travis Bakewell

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Paul Caskey, Jack & Cathy Dickey, Jeannie Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Thomas & Jenni Lavigne, Jeanne Meier, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Don Roy, Mary Turpin, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** I was eating my cookie. It would have been very rude for me to talk with my mouth full. So, Jeff made the motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the April meeting. It was seconded and agreed to very easily. If you choose to read them, they are posted on the Website (May Trail Tales).

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** \$4,047.49

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick:** Started by saying that there were no fines. But someone out in the crowd quickly brought up Bob Norton (see Past Events section – Spring Quarterly event). It was agreed that he should be fined, but there was a disagreement on the amount. Dixon went on to explain to the few guests that attended on the how and why guests earn points before they can be voted in as members.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:** More of the same thing – still waiting to hear from Forests (I think that there are several of them). Jemez Mountain district has rewritten their needs and assessment report and will not be seeking the closure of any trails (the original decision to close them came from a study on the results of the fire last year). Frank is on a committee to get volunteers for the Espanola district. Jemez district has a change in staff. We need to get to them and let them know what we can do to help. This could be a very good opportunity for us to really bond with them and show them that we can help. Jack Dickey advised that the NM Tech club will have a new president very soon, the current one is graduating.

**WANTED - TRAIL LEADERS**  
(**\$100 Gift Certificate to the person who leads the most Trails**)

~ 1 ~

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

### **PAST EVENTS:**

**Spring Quarterly:** April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. Frank Whiston attended the event (as well as others, I think). Friday's trail ride got off to a rocky start, but they ended running what the trail that was originally planned. During Friday's run, the Rattlesnake, Bob Norton lost a control arm. He didn't take Dr. Bob Telepak's advice on needing to replacing the control arms. Don Walker had a welder and patched him together. Bob left it there and came back for it. For Saturday's run, the NM4W group showed up at the published start time of about 9 or so. The Alamogordo group had been there waiting since 8 am. On Saturday they ran 3 Amigos. The group split into 2 different groups. One group did easy Tecolote (sic) instead of 3 Amigos. They were all going to meet up for lunch. But the easy trail group wasn't there! They got lost and never showed up!

Also, Cliff Meier got a call from a Movie casting person and she needed a pink Hummer. Jennifer Chapin got in touch with the movie people to see if she had what they needed. They needed a pink hummer – hers has some pink on it. So they asked her to send pictures and she did right away. She sent them pictures and they loved it and asked her to bring it to them. It was the main characters' ride and they took a lot of shots of it, but she's not sure if any will make it into the movie. NM4W will be in credits as the suppliers of the vehicle (thanks for thinking of all of us at the NM4W). The name of the movie will be Homeland Security and she'll pass on more info as they send it to her.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**May 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> – Moab - Cliff Meier.** Guy Conway has graciously agreed to lead the club on some trails. (no mention of what trails yet). Another option would be to come with the Rector's and the Coe's and some of their friends, not sure what we are running, but it is should be more on the challenging side than the scenic side. Jeanne Meier said that there is a caravan leaving the Home Depot in Bernalillo– 8:30 am on Wednesday the 9th.

**May 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> Memorial Day Campout in the Jemez - Cliff Meier:** There are still no specific trails posted on the web site. Tahoe Zahn will be organizing games for Saturday. The Lavigne's will be leading us on trails on top of the mesas on Sunday. We will see cabins and Indian ruins.

**June 9<sup>th</sup> – Annual Picnic – Oak Flats Picnic Grounds:** This is a picnic area in the East Mountains and it has a large covered shelter with a lot of picnic tables and a play area for the kids. This will be the club's June meeting. We will follow about the same time line as other summer meetings. We will eat about 5 and meeting will follow after we're done eating. Oak Flats Picnic grounds is amongst pine trees and has lots of shade.

**Summer Quarterly in Silverton in July:** 24 Registrants – 16 from our club – 3 from Kansas, 1 from Alamogordo – 4 not affiliated with any club. Get t-shirts order in as quick as possible, will be ordering very soon. Jeannie printed some order forms and had them at the meeting with her. Details are on web site. If you are a guest, please contact Frank Whiston to get information. If you have not made reservations, be sure to do so very soon.

***Please be sure to check out the calendar on the  
web site –  
That's where you'll find the most current  
information!***

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** He has hats, t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale. He didn't have any hats like the hat that he is wearing though (one of those hats with hair). He's also selling tickets for the 50-50 raffle tickets and will be for a short time after the meeting is adjourned. Raffle tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5 and extra ticket if you have club garb on. Winning ticket gets ½ the pot, the club gets the other half – up to \$40 for this meeting at the time of the report.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Viaondo:** wasn't present tonight.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** The new web site is ready to play with – 8 people had done that so far. See the link on the current web-site. Error checking is still being done. The goal is to get it on line for the new fiscal year – August 1, 2012. The Point Tracking system is done, checked and working to Dixon's satisfaction.

**EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** Was not present. Someone (Mark Wolf) reminded everyone that Phil has to fill in most of the Trail Tails (even though I'm doing my best to make the meeting minutes as long as possible). If you lead a trail, submit an article on it. If you go on a trail ride that you really liked (or didn't like), write an article on it. Don't expect Phil to do all of the writing and publishing for the newsletter.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Summer Quarterly 2012 – Schedule of Events:** We need to purchase the insurance now. Mark Werkmeister got a quote through United for \$481, but the quote was from last December and most likely has expired. Need to get updated quote and it will most likely be more expensive (I advised that they could see 5% or more). It was voted and agreed to proceed. There was discussion on how to register for the event. Wednesday night begins registration, which is a \$60 fee. This fee includes a Friday night meal and a breakfast burritos on Saturday morning.

Dixon reminded us that Cliff has set up a new way to do the voting for the 4-Wheeler of The Year Award. The new website will be set up to be used for votes – it cannot track who votes for whom. The plaque will be awarded at the July meeting. July is also the month that we vote in new officers. You can send nominations to Cliff via email. Cliff promises that the president position is open. Please give serious consideration to nominating yourself (Cliff won't tell) or someone else that you think will do a good job (or might be able to at least do the job).

Upcoming meeting locations were mentioned – see website.

Mark Wolf reminded everyone about the Member Survey. Print it, fill it out and bring it to the picnic. There are only about 10 questions.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was a discussion of the Memorial weekend and additional events for this weekend – I put this under "upcoming events" in the meeting minutes and will not duplicate them here. It is hoped that we can go on some of the trails in the Jemez that were affected by the fire last year.

Thomas and Jenni Lavigne were voted in as members – after they were asked to stand up again. They were given a very hearty welcome.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** 7:02 pm (I think – battery died on my computer).

**Raffle Winners:**

50/50 was ????? (can't remember – see line above). I think the pot was \$94 for the winner and the club to split.

Frank G. Whiston won a Winch Stabilizer (his daughter drew his ticket???). This was taken from the web site of everyone who signed into the web site at least once every 2 weeks.

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



## President's Report

by Cliff Meier

Just a reminder: the voting on-line for Member of the Year will close on June 9. So far there have been 16 members who have voted. Not a good showing for a club with over 60 members! Please take a moment to vote.

Another reminder: Next month is the election of club officers. In past years, not many members run for office. As a result the same group tends to rotate the officer positions year after year. While the club is very appreciative of this dedicated group, new blood and ideas, etc. helps keep a club strong. So, please think about running for office. At this time, we need nominations for President, Secretary, and Historian. Even if we have nominations for the other positions, we always need more. If you have questions about what the duties of the officers are, the job descriptions for the officer positions are on the website in the Standard Operating Procedures. You can nominate someone or yourself either by sending me an e-mail at [sarmeier@yahoo.com](mailto:sarmeier@yahoo.com), or at the July meeting.

I guess this the time for reminders; I have one more. Dues time is coming up shortly, during August. Per the SOPs, **“Dues shall be delinquent on the first day of September, and all rights and privileges of membership will end.”** This means that anyone, **no excuses**, that is delinquent on September 1<sup>st</sup> will revert to a Guest and will have to follow the process for full membership, i.e., earn points and be voted in. You can pay your dues at the monthly meetings or mailing them directly to our treasurer, Justin. Also, Don and Jason are investigating using the club's PayPal account to pay dues. More on this later.

For those members that want more challenging runs, Dixon is planning a Tank Trap run on June 16. For more information see the club's calendar.

Lastly, the new website should be on-line after the June 9<sup>th</sup> picnic. Don Roy and his son have put a great deal of effort in the website re-do. Use the link on the current website to check out the new one. The club owes both of them a **big** thanks!

Please make room on your calendars for the picnic June 9<sup>th</sup>. It's always a great time good food and people!

**From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs**  
**By Frank Whiston**  
**NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.**

There are a couple things to touch on this month. First, the Mountainair Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest has released their decision and Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on the revised Travel Management Environmental Assessment (EA). I thank those of you who submitted comments. Although there was no significant change from the first EA decision, one comment about completing a loop used by the club was incorporated. NMOHVA is working on writing an appeal on this one as well due to the fact that the forest service did not adequately address many of our comments.

Next, it is fire season in New Mexico. ☹ We have a huge reminder of that blackening the Gila national forest, the largest fire in New Mexico history! Unfortunately that fire has jumped out of the wilderness boundary and has burned the Bear Wallow lookout, an area enjoyed by many motorized recreationalists. I wish that I had participated in the Gila trip Pat Brady led last summer. I doubt that area will ever be the same in my lifetime. Additionally, the Cibola and Santa Fe National Forests have imposed Stage 1 fire restrictions.

Stage I fire restrictions include:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire or stove fire except in US Forest Service developed campsites and picnic grounds where grills and stoves are provided.
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or building; a developed recreation site; or while stopped in an area at least three feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable materials.

Although the Gila fire was caused by lightning, I want to emphasize how important that we all remain diligent when we are out and ensure that we do not cause any fires. It is imperative that we follow the Stage 1 restrictions listed above and also keep our vehicles on the roads and trails. A hot exhaust has the potential to start a fire if it comes in contact with tall, dry grass.



## Memorial Day Campout BY Cliff Meier

Over Memorial Day weekend 24 adventurous club members and guests meet in the Jemez to campout or for day trips. We had 8 guests join us. We set up camp in the Porter Landing area.

There were three days of trail runs; the Friday run was led by Dixon and Zelda to the Big Foot Indian Ruins on Holiday Mesa.



These ruins include the tumbled down walls, several structures with partial walls and vegas still in place and a large kiva. The ruins covered a large area with pot shards almost everywhere you looked, many with designs that were still clearly visible.

It is unfortunate that these ruins may not be on the upcoming Travel Management Plan Motor Vehicle Map so you will not be able to visit them with your vehicle in the future.

After visiting the ruins, we found a good spot for lunch and then stopped at several overlooks.

The next day's run was led by Tom and Jenni Lavigne. The run again started out on Holiday Mesa and highlighted the remains of two log cabin communities.



The first had many cabins in a large area off the road. Several of the cabins had old truck parts and oil drums beside them. What appeared to be second growth forest tended to conceal many of





the cabins unless you got out and hiked the area.

One of the cabins was made of large logs with no windows but a large door. It appeared it may have been used for storage. It was fun to try to guess what the various cabins were used for.

After the Saturday run everyone enjoyed the usual excellent pot luck supper back at camp. Zelda even made a large pot of spaghetti on her camp stove!

The run on Monday was led by me. It was short, back right after lunch so folks could get on home. The run was on the top of the mountain ridge that overlooks Hwy 550 and Cuba. Just your normal scenic Jemez run until.....! We stopped to enjoy the overlook and met a forest friend. About 4-6 feet long, shaking his tail at us.



It seemed our friend, the rattle snake, did not appreciate Jeeps driving along the road beside him. Look closely at the picture and you can him.

After lunch we all headed back to camp and unfortunately the end of the holiday weekend. Everyone had a good time and just in time! The following week Stage 1 fire restrictions were implemented.



## On the Movie Set By Jennifer Chapin

It started with a call from Cliff Meier asking if he could pass my name along to someone looking for a Hummer to be in a movie. This lady Marcia called me and said I hear you have a pink Hummer, I responded with it is black with some pink on it. Marcia wanted me to send pictures so I sent her some various pictures and within 5 minutes she called me and said they wanted my Hummer for the movie. My Hummer is the main characters ride, I spent all day Saturday and part of the day Sunday on the set while they filmed various scenes from different angles so I am not really sure how much of my Hummer will be in the final movie cut.



More information to come, there will be photos of the director and me with the Hummer in the media kit. The movie is called Homeland Security and will have a local premier in Albuquerque in a few months. My Hummer was a big hit and is the star of a few scenes! New Mexico 4Whealers will be listed in the movie credits.







## **Summer Quarterly Reminder**

**BY Frank Whiston**

If you have already registered for the event, thank you. If you haven't registered yet, please keep reading.

We are less than two months away from the San Juan Mountain Rendezvous in beautiful Silverton Colorado! The dates are July 26-28, 2012 and all of the event information can be found at <http://ev.nm4w.org/>

Go to the website to register and for all of the details including food, lodging, t-shirts, etc.

Note: T-shirt sales are pre-order only and must be received no later than June 30, 2012.

There is plenty of room for everyone so please make your summer plans today and register online or contact me for a mail-in registration form.

Frank Whiston

Summer Quarterly 2012 Chairman.



## NM4W Moab Trip, May 9-13, 2012

BY Cliff Meier

On May 9, 10 club members and two guests left Albuquerque bound for Moab, UT to enjoy one of the premier wheeling locations in the country. We met our trail guide, Guy Conway at the Canyonlands RV Park where most of the group stayed. Guy Conway is an old time member of the club who normally spends several months in Moab, before and after the Easter Jeep Safari.



Guy had agreed to lead our group during our 3 day visit. The first day we ran the Seven Mile Rim trail north of town. This run is rated as moderate.

The trail ran along the edge of the mesa rim which overlooked Hwy 161 that ran north out of Moab. Everyone successfully completed the run without any problems.



Guy took us to Uranium Arch which is not normally included when the Jeep Safari does this run. The arch was an outstanding lunch spot. After lunch the trail intersected another trail, Wipe Out Hill. Of course, within our group, we had several members that had to show their stuff on the hill!



Glenn's going down and coming back up Wipe Out Hill.



After Wipe Out Hill we passed the Monitor and Merrimac Buttes.



On Friday we broke up into two groups. The bravest group followed Frank on the Moab Rim trail. The rest of us followed Guy on the Dome Plateau trail. Moab Rim is a more challenging trail with ledges and fantastic views.



Dome Plateau is easy to moderate except Again and Again Hill. This was a steep climb with three ledges at the top. Everyone made it up, some with extra help. We even had to use a Hummer rescue vehicle!

Here is Erwin on the middle ledge. Several years ago I left about \$1000 on this ledge but that's a different story!

After the hill we proceeded to an overlook for lunch and then on to a large cave and some dinosaur foot prints.

The last day the group visited three great overlooks south of Moab, two of which were on hard surfaced and gravel roads. The last had about ½ mile of off-roading!

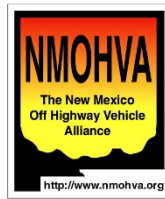
Everyone except Jeanne and myself packed up and came home on Sunday. We stayed another day and we went with Guy to several pictographs.



**There are many more pictures from our trips on the website Picasa folder. Take a look at them, or better yet, join us on a trip!**

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Pres@nm4w.org">Pres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 891-8517 <a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:treas@nm4w.org">treas@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 <a href="mailto:prog@nm4w.org">prog@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 <a href="mailto:history@nm4w.org">history@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Trip Chairman</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:trails@nm4w.org">trails@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Frank Whiston 292-1541 <a href="mailto:land@nm4w.org">land@nm4w.org</a>	<b>SWFWDA Delegate</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <a href="mailto:n5epa@flash.net">n5epa@flash.net</a>
Web Site Administrator <a href="mailto:webadmin@nm4w.org">webadmin@nm4w.org</a>		





# Trail Tales



July 1, 2012

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2012  
by Lauri Rector



Our Annual Picnic meeting for 2012 was held at Oak Flats Picnic area.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

**GUESTS:** Chuck & Lela Carter - Jeep Rubicon Unlimited, Nate Wittier (not on sign-up sheet, may have the name wrong) – building a K5 Blazer, Tyson (not on the sign-up sheet, didn't get his whole name) – 99 Dodge, Bob & Sandy Powell - '04 Rubicon, Bill & Lauri Reed – '79 Jeep CJ7, Travis Bakewell – 2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo, Patty Leach, Henry Wackerbarth

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Jeff & Paula Boggs, Paul Caskey, Craig Courtwright & Vicki Medlin, Jack & Cathy Dickey, Leon & Marsha Dugger, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Thomas & Jenni Lavigne, Jason & Sara Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy & Janie Shows, Mary Turpin, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Tahoe Zahn

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** I didn't have them ready to read. Thankfully, Dixon came to rescue me and made a motion that they would be accepted as printed in the June trail tails. Everyone can read them silently to themselves at their own leisure.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** \$4,239.77 once 1 outstanding check clears.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick:** Bob Provance got a fine due to a need for his Hummer to be rescued in Moab. He started to argue that he didn't think a strap warranted a fine; however, Carol Provance reminded him that without it, he would have gone over the cliff.

Dixon explained the point system to the guests, how points are earned by attending meeting and trail rides and events and how many points for each. He also explained the fines and the dollar amount of the fines. This doesn't raise much money, but is a good source of entertainment.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:** Cibola National released a revised Travel Management plan on the Mountainair district – not much of a change. He explained NMOVA and how they represent all forms of off-roading in the state and keep up with everything that affects all types of off-roading. Currently they are helping towns change legislation to allow ATV's to ride on roads from hotels and such to nearby forests. This will be a benefit in

towns like Red River. The Travel Management Plan was explained as well. It has been mandated that National Forests will change from current policy of open unless posted closed to a policy of closed unless posted or on a map as open. There is a certain process to this and they have to get public input and post their positions to the public and have comment periods. The revised plan in Mountainair has about 12 less miles. Las Conchas burn area has been partially reopened now. Links are posted on the club website. Santa Fe National Forest is right now printing up their Environmental Impact Statement. Be ready to review and write comments. No decision yet from the Gila; the fire could delay it.

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

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

**PAST EVENTS:**

**May 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> – Moab - Cliff Meier:** They ran 7 Mile Rim and Moab Rim and the 3<sup>rd</sup> day did some of the overlooks. Erwin Grevin said that they ran into a hail storm on the way home with several inches of hail.

**May 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day Campout in the Jemez - Cliff Meier:** 1<sup>st</sup> day trail ride was up to Holiday Mesa. Thomas Lavigne took them out on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day to see various ruins. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day Cliff led a run to a trail on the ridge over-looking 550 and Cuba. There was a rattler on the trail, very mad, especially when they tried throwing rocks at it to get it out of the road. There was also a horny toad lizard too.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**June 16<sup>th</sup> – Tank Trap – Dixon Patrick:** Meet at the Rail Runner Station in Bernalillo at 8:00 am. We will drive to Santa Fe Airport and then North to air down area, trailers can be parked there. This is a Medium trail, once you get over the 1<sup>st</sup> obstacle, which has many choices of difficulty. After that, there is nothing that is really very hard.

**July 7<sup>th</sup> – Jemez Run to the Dinosaur Footprint – Frank G. Whiston:** This is all dependent on the fire hazard situation and if they keep the forest open. Departing from the Walatowa Visitor Center on Highway 4 at 9:00 am.

**July 14<sup>th</sup> – Casa Jeep Jam – Cliff Meier:** Starts at 9:00 am. Expect them to be giving prizes and awards. They will also be having off-road seminars. There will be a free BBQ too, but it's suggested to get in line early or go hungry. You can register for the event at <http://www.casajeepjam.com/>

**July 14<sup>th</sup> – July meeting at the Provance's home.**

**Summer Quarterly in Silverton in July:** Trail leaders are needed. Please sign up to lead a trail. Registrants are growing. They will be coming in from Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma and Alamogordo. Advertising has been limited, so registration is still under the 30 mark. Registration can be done on-line and there is a registration in the Southwest 4Wheel Drive Line (ignore that it says 2010 at the top of the form).

**Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site – it is continually updated and added to and will have all of the contact information you need!!!**

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** He's selling 50/50 raffle tickets and he explained the 50/50 raffle and how it works. This week he has a Hi-Lift carry all with various handy items in it – donated by Dr. Bob Telepak, he won it at the Spring Quarterly. He has t-shirts (\$15) and sweatshirts (\$25) for sale; he may also have 1 or 2 license plates.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Viapondo:** Nothing to report. But he did thank everyone for pictures that they are posting.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** New Web site is not free. There are fees for the website address and that is all paid up for a couple more years. Then there is also a fee to be paid to the web host. Don had been paying \$6 a month since taking over this office and respectively requested to be reimbursed for a total of \$72. Motion was made to reimburse him. There were discussions about future bills, and the possibility to change SOP so that this bill is paid automatically. Motion passed to reimburse Don, SOP's already written to reimburse him as he submitted bills. There may be further research into this method of paying the web host. Old web site will be shut down tonight and the new site will go live, either later tonight or early tomorrow. Each person can have their own ID and password, what you had previously will not change for the new web-site. Each person can make their own truck page. Be sure to load up picture as soon as you create this page. If you don't do it, Don will populate your space with a picture of a 4X4 Yugo. Current mobile website is going away. New mobile web site is being developed and should be live in a few months. The galleries button is changing. Everything can now be on this one tab, Picasa and local pictures. But, it was decided that links to Picasa should not be put on the website, in case of any inappropriate pictures. But, if someone would volunteer (maybe the historian), more galleries could be set up using carefully chosen pictures from Picasa.

**EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** Keep on sending in articles. Also, if you brought something to the pot luck that people liked, send the recipe to Phil and he'll put it in the newsletter. Everyone liked this idea.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

New Mexico 4-Wheeler of the Year: Voting period is to end after this meeting. If you have not voted, paper ballots were available there at the meeting. Announcement of winner will be at the July meeting.

Officer Election Next Month: New officers to be voted in at the July meeting. Description of the offices is on the web site. Nominations can be emailed to Cliff Meier. Mark Wolf accepted nomination for Vice President.

Survey: Mark asked everyone to fill this out tonight or within the next few weeks. Completed surveys can be mailed to him. New officers will review and may have some suggestions for changes.



Overhead Rack Prototype: Tahoe Zahn has one in his Jeep. If you want to see what it is and what it looks like it.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

For the past year, someone has been tallying the log-ins on the web site and having special drawings from those tallies. This was done to get people to go to the newly formatted website and get members to start using it and populating it. However, the tallying is very time consuming. Is it really needed any longer? It was voted that this can be stopped.

Another annual reward: we have the one for the most points and one for the most lead trail. However, in the few years that we have had both of these awards, it has trended that this tends to be the same person. So, a few people came up with the idea that there could be 3<sup>rd</sup> award. This award winner would be pulled from a raffle. Your name would go in a hat every time you earned points. The more you participate in club events, the more points you earn and the more chances you have to win. This would allow people that did have a lot of participation in club activities to have a chance to win. Motion was passed and there were some general questions and discussions. This was passed successfully. I did not hear what this prize will be.

**Dues are due. There is a deadline. Pay by the end of August, or start earning points to get voted back in. No exceptions to be made. You can pay a check to Jason at the meetings, or in the mail or by pay-pal. There will be a \$1 surcharge for pay-pal.**

## **BE A TRAIL LEADER**

**The person leading the most trails during the year will be presented with a \$100 gift certificate at the August Meeting**

New Members voted in: Travis Bakewell and Bob & Sandy Powell and Harry Wackerbarth

Jeff and Paula Boggs invited everyone to the Astronomical Society after the NM4W meeting. They are at a nearby picnic area that has a field and there are extra telescopes already set up.

The crowd roared as a big, hearty and well deserved “THANK YOU” was given to Mark & Joan Wolf for getting this set up each year. Everyone really enjoys this picnic and really appreciate the Wolf’s effort in securing the area for the club.

X-Terra for sale by the Lavigne. See the For Sale ad on the website.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 6:57 pm**

**Raffle Winners:**

50/50 was \$70 - Tahoe Zahn was the big winner

Hi-Lift something carry-all – Thomas Lavigne



## President's Report

by Cliff Meier

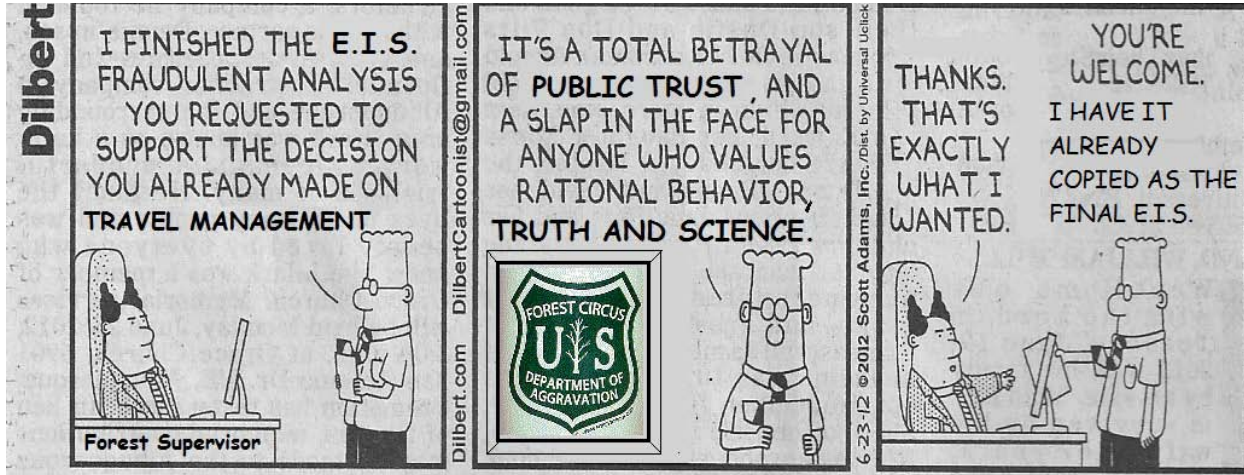
At the July meeting we will hold the election of officers for next year. Up until the actual election nominations will be open. So if you think someone will make a good officer nominate them (probably should discuss with them first) or nominate yourself if would like to serve. If you have questions about what the duties of the officers are, the job descriptions for the officer positions are on the website in the Standard Operating Procedures. You can nominate someone or yourself either by sending me an e-mail at [sarmeier@yahoo.com](mailto:sarmeier@yahoo.com), or at the meeting.

Unfortunately Frank is having Jeep problems and had to postpone the run in the dinosaur footprint in the Jemez on July 7. I have wanted to find the old log skidder so I have scheduled a replacement run on July 7 to find it. See the website calendar for details. If we don't get any rain the forests may be closed so check the website calendar for status.

Lastly, I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in Silverton at the Summer Quarterly this month. It will be good to get away from the 100 degree temps! Remember you can register at our website or through the mail. If you have any questions on registration contact Jeanne at [jmeier44@yahoo.com](mailto:jmeier44@yahoo.com) or 505-281-3704.

**From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs  
By Frank Whiston  
NM4W Director of Environmental Affairs.**

**The Santa Fe National Forest just releases the decision on Travel Management (6/28/2012)**



Sadly, this cartoon is not far from the truth. As the general public and recreational users of the forest, we all should be furious about this decision. The decision will close over half of the roads in the forest including many of the club's most popular routes. Tank Trap, Paliza Canyon, and Guadalupe Crossing to Holiday Mesa are just a few small examples of the 2,878 miles of roads that will be closed once the Motor Vehicle Usage Map (MVUM) is published. Additionally, you will be limited to only 381 miles of the roads left open for the purposes of motorized access to dispersed camping and the retrieval of downed game. That's right! Hunters are affected too!

I hope that this makes you as furious as it does me! The center pane of the cartoon above sums up the SFNF Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) just about perfectly. Since NM4W made substantive comments on the draft EIS, the club has standing for appeal. This is where I need your help. In particular, I need every club member who submitted comments back in September of 2010 and mentioned being a part of the club to share those comments with me. As part of the EIS, the forest service was supposed to respond to every comment, and they received nearly 3300 of them. The problem is that they did not identify each comment, or the source, so it is hard for me to even determine if they had responded to my comments. This alone is an excellent appeal point!

I am willing to lead an effort in writing an appeal to the decision on behalf of NM4W, but I need assistance in doing so. We only have 45 days from day after the legal notice appears in the *Albuquerque Journal* and lasts for 45 days. We expect the legal notice to be published on or around July 6, 2012. I have a full time job and a family just like everyone else, so this will have to be a group effort to pull this off. Contact me if you are willing to help ASAP! (My contact info can be found at the end of this newsletter.) Now is our best chance to fight this decision, but I cannot do it alone.

Frank G. Whiston  
Director of Environmental Affairs



## Annual Picnic BY Joan Wolf

The now-annual NM4W picnic/meeting was held on June 9 with 70+ in attendance. Everyone enjoyed grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and delicious homemade side dishes and desserts. Between the covered picnic tables and portable lawn chairs, everyone found a spot in the shade. The little ones got to run around and play trucks in the dirt. What could be more fun? The picnic is always a relaxing, friendly event with lots of good food. Several visitors attended and we hope they had a good first impression of NM4W. Jeff and Paula Boggs belong to a local astronomy club and invited people for a stargazing



event also being held at the Oak Flat Picnic Area. A special thanks to the burger flippers (Cliff, Leon, Wolfie, Glenn V.), Paula Boggs for set-up assistance, and the entire Vialpando family for arriving early and helping throughout.



## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Cliff Meier 281-3704 <a href="mailto:Pres@nm4w.org">Pres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 891-8517 <a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:treas@nm4w.org">treas@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 <a href="mailto:prog@nm4w.org">prog@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 <a href="mailto:history@nm4w.org">history@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Trip Chairman</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:trails@nm4w.org">trails@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Frank Whiston 292-1541 <a href="mailto:land@nm4w.org">land@nm4w.org</a>	<b>SWFWDA Delegate</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <a href="mailto:n5epa@flash.net">n5epa@flash.net</a>
Web Site Administrator <a href="mailto:webadmin@nm4w.org">webadmin@nm4w.org</a>		





# Trail Tales



August 1, 2012

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

## Meeting Minutes

July 14 2012  
by Lauri Rector



Our July meeting was held at the home of gracious hosts Bob & Carol Provance.

Meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm.

**GUESTS:** Don & Laura Wittenberg—'04 Red TJ - they are here from Louisiana, Carol (last name unknown) – in a new Toyota Tacoma pick up, Bill Reed (Lauri did not come with him to this meeting) CJ, Bill & Debra Jolley (oops, did not get what they drive), Devin Cannady (another oops on what they drive) and Carlos Rivera – another newer Toyota Tacoma Pickup, and last but not least – Jennifer Chapin – a movie star Hummer.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Cody Bakewell, Jeff & Paula Boggs, Pat & Sue Brady, Craig Courtwright & Vicki Medlin, Jack & Cathy Dickey, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, 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:** Pat Brady wanted a hand count for reading the minutes. He didn't win. Motion was carried to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the June meeting. Please see July 2012 Trail Tales for the full meeting minutes if you need to read them.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** Was not present, but his email reported \$4,953.97 total in the accounts.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick:** Dixon explained how points are accumulated on the web and why we count points. One reason is that Guests need to earn 5 points by going on runs and attending meetings in order to be eligible to be voted in as a member. See Trip Chairman report for the fines assessed since the June meeting.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:** At the meeting, Frank felt that it was a good time to go back to the basics of what the Travel Management is all about. There have been a lot of new members come into to the club since the 1<sup>st</sup> public meetings started with various Forests in the area. This background information could not have come at a better time.

## **The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

- Signed into law by President Richard Nixon on January 1, 1970
- **The law was established to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.**
- NEPA did not advocate environmental preservation at all costs. Rather, it sought to balance environmental concerns with the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.
- State and local governments, concerned private and public organizations, and individuals encouraged Federal agencies to work in partnership; NEPA endeavored to reconcile the inherent tension between the rapidly changing world and its finite natural resources.
- The heart of NEPA is helping Federal agencies act as responsible stewards of America's vast natural resources.
- NEPA advanced an interdisciplinary approach to Federal project planning and decision making through environmental impact assessment.
- This approach requires Federal officials to consider environmental values alongside the technical and economic considerations that are inherent factors in Federal decision making.
  - Evaluation of reasonable alternatives to a proposed Federal action;
  - Solicitation of input from organizations and individuals that could potentially be affected;
  - Unbiased presentation of direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts.
- This information is used by a Federal official before a decision is made.
- NEPA also established a new entity within the Executive Office of the President to oversee NEPA implementation: The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

## **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

The most rigorous level of NEPA compliance, an EIS has more regulatory requirements than an Environmental Assessment (EA).

1. The agency files a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register, informing the public of the upcoming environmental analysis and describing how they can become involved in EIS preparation.
  - a. The Notice of Intent begins the scoping process, a period when the agency and the public collaborate to define the range of issues to be addressed in an EIS. The agency identifies and encourages participation from interested parties, defines the role of involved agencies, and determines the environmental issues relevant to the EIS. The agency also identifies any existing and required studies or analyses that can be used during EIS preparation.
2. While drafting the EIS, the agency prepares a Purpose and Need statement to describe the rationale for the proposed action. This statement is the basis for creating alternative solutions.

- a. Federal agencies must present reasonable alternatives in sufficient detail for readers to compare their environmental effects.
  - b. If an agency has a preferred alternative, it should be clearly identified in the EIS. Agencies must also consider a no action alternative. No action alternatives describe what would happen if the agency chooses not to pursue the action.
3. Once the agency has prepared a draft EIS, the document is published for public review and comment for a minimum of 45 days. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will publish a Notice of Availability, announcing the availability of the document, to the public.
  4. Upon expiration of the draft public comment period, the agency considers all **substantive comments**, conducts further analysis if necessary, and prepares a final EIS.
  5. The EPA then publishes a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register for the final EIS. This Notice begins a minimum 30-day review period. This review period must be completed before the agency makes a decision on the proposed action.

The appeals are heard within the Forest Service itself. Appeals are heard one level up. That means an appeal filed on a forest (a decision by a forest supervisor) is heard at the Regional Forest office level.

This is like filing a complaint against your boss, and the case is heard by your boss's boss, who is the guy who hired him in the first place. They tend to 'protect their own'. The only thing that motivates the Region to concede in an appeal is if they think we could win in court. The courts (in general) have deferred to the agency when it comes to arguments about the science. The best arguments in appeal and litigations are the ones that say the Forest Service has broken the law, by violating CEQ regulations and/or the forest planning regulations.

The comments (and appeal) have to be 'substantive'. That means we are identifying where the science is faulty, and where NEPA and Forest Planning regulations are violated. This is not about just finding things to complain about. 'Substantive' means comments that show the EIS did a lousy job on the analysis.

Here are the current standings on some major Forests used by NM4W:

### **Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) Decision:**

The Record of Decision/Final EIS was made available on June 28<sup>th</sup> but the official notice wasn't published until July 6<sup>th</sup>. That started the official 45-day clock (due date is Aug 20<sup>th</sup>). Nora Hamilton (PPS) has agreed to support us by writing a portion of the NMOHVA appeal.

The Decision itself is quite a bit more restrictive than the original Proposed Action, especially from a 4WD access standpoint. We are losing several quality routes that were originally in the preferred alternative. My initial review also shows that the agency is using very vague 'responses' to the comments, not responding specifically to any individual comments. It is so vague that we will claim that they are not meeting the requirements for response (that will, itself, be one of our appeal points).



The biggest single fraud in the SFNF EIS is the No Action Alternative. The SFNF uses a baseline of 5,100 miles of existing roads and trails. Then it claims that different alternatives leave 'X' miles open, and that means it would close 46% or whatever of those miles. But the real number for existing roads and trails is 7,844 miles. There's the trick, they never talk about how many miles they CLOSE. They only talk about how many miles are left open.

Here's the difference. Lets say you claim you are leaving 2500 miles open out 5,000. This allows you to claim you closed 50%. But if you're really leaving only 2500 miles open out of 7,800 miles, you are really closing 68% (the figure of 7.844 miles is shown in Table 60, of Appendix 2 of the EIS).

It works like that because the Travel management rule says that any roads not designated are automatically closed. So the forest service has this **BIG** motivation to **misrepresent the total mileage**. They say their analysis uses a baseline of 5,100 miles, but the real number is over 7,800. What happens to the missing 2,700 miles? **They ALL get closed 'by default' under the travel management rule.**

This means the true closures being proposed under the alternatives are much, much higher than the EIS says.

And THAT means the EIS doesn't tell the truth, and that is against the law, under NEPA regulations. The SFNF created an illegal baseline, 5100 miles instead of 7800 miles. The entire EIS is wrong because of this. The entire analysis and comparisons in the EIS are based on mileages, and all those numbers are wrong, because they started with the wrong number.

### **Mountainair EA (2<sup>nd</sup> time around):**

NMOHVA filed two appeals of the latest version of the Mountainair RD Travel Management Decision/FONSI. Joanne and I each filed one in NMOHVA's name for the comments we had submitted. We both met with supervisor Nancy Rose for the 'informal resolution' meetings. We knew our concerns wouldn't be resolved (they aren't allowed to change anything at this point) but the meetings provided some valuable insight into what they were thinking and how it might impact the Magdalena RD EA. We also heard that the Magdalena EA will be out "shortly". It is very important that we have people at the public meetings with local knowledge of the routes being impacted.

### **Gila NF Decision:**

The latest word (from the Forest Supervisor at a meeting with County Commissioners) is that it has been delayed until "sometime this winter". Good news as it won't overlap with the SFNF.

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

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

### PAST EVENTS:

**June 16<sup>th</sup> – Tank Trap – Dixon Patrick:** There were 14 participants who met at Rail Runner Station in Bernalillo. Then we picked up a few more at the Santa Fe exit. Dixon was nice enough to let everyone know that I (Lauri Rector) had the best exhibition. He allowed me to tell the story. Tank Trap starts with a tough obstacle. Leon Dugger was nice enough to spot me. I had a slip of the back tire off a critical spot. But, well placed rocks and a short back up and I was up. But, there is some negotiating of ledges to get off the obstacle. Leon wanted to turn driver and back up about a foot and then pull forward and turn passenger. About 66 other “spotters” who had been like a gaggle of cackling hens this whole time convinced Leon to have me just come forward. I had already put the transmission in reverse and forgot about it. I let go of the brake, hit the gas and shot backwards - and went about ½ way back down the obstacle. Since I was able to regain my composure, I came right up again and made it over the ledges and off the obstacle with no assist, not by backing up and turning and was able to continue to block out the gaggle of hens who thought they were spotting me, Dixon decided that there would be no fine for me. Dixon did fine himself in the gulley, another obstacle in the last half of the trail. It's tight, very tall, and difficult to get out of it. Several vehicles, lots of straps and finally a winch were involved. Don Roy thinks he pulled out about 10 vehicles out of this gulley. This is one of the trails that will not be open once maps are finalized

**July 9<sup>th</sup> – Log Skidder Hill – Cliff Meier:** This is a long steep hill that was forested and a log skidder was left up at top of mountain by the logging company. After they got to the top and looked around the log skidder they went on to the over-look. You can see Cuba from this point. There is a trip report later in this issue of the Trail Tales.

**July 14<sup>th</sup> – Casa Jeep Jam – Cliff Meier:** There were about 9 or 10 Jeeps from the club and about 60 Jeeps total. Casa gave away a lot of goodies and free food.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Summer Quarterly in Silverton in July:** Frank Whiston explained what the Quarterly is for the benefit of the guests. We are the hosts for the summer quarterly meeting this year. Attendees will include clubs from our region, members of the SWFWDA, and other clubs. We have scheduled trail rides on Thursday, Friday & Saturday. Staging for the trail rides will occur at Silverton Creek Campgrounds. A Barbeque is planned for Friday night and breakfast burritos on Saturday morning, both of which are included with the registration fee. Jeannie Meier brought registration forms and schedules, or you can register on site.

Jeff Boggs may run Palizza (near Ponderosa in the Jemez Mountains) in August. Check web site for dates and details.

**COULD YOU USE A \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE? THERE WILL BE 3 WAYS TO WIN!!!**

## **BE A TRAIL LEADER**

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** \$99 was collected for the 50/50 raffle. He brought T-shirts and license plates. XL sizes and larger are running low.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Viapondo:** Thanked everyone for the pictures that were being posted to Picasa. Please keep it up.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** The new web site is up and going after last month meeting. The mobile web site is now up and going as well. There have been various user problems with emails and there was much discussed about them. A big round of thanks went out to Don for the great web site that he has set up for the club. Discussions regarding events and how to get word out to people who don't have computers or ready access to them were held. Also, there was an explanation about the "Member's Only" events and how guests can get info on them.

**EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** Not present. Cliff Meier reminded and asked that people submit articles to him. (If it has to do with 4-wheel drive, send it in. People reading Trail Tails are reading it because they like to read things about 4-wheel drive stuff).

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Officer elections – The ballots are ready, room for write in candidates is included on the ballots.

Survey: Mark Wolf asked for completed surveys to be turned in. (That would leave me out, it was too long & I only completed about the 1<sup>st</sup> page and half of the next one).

Dues are due. There is a deadline of August 1<sup>st</sup> – which is when our new fiscal year starts. We give a 30 day grace period. So, if you pay by the end of August, you're gold. If not, you'll have to start earning points and then try to get voted back in (you risk the chance that we may not want you a 2<sup>nd</sup> time). No exceptions to be made (however, we do have new officers coming in on August 1<sup>st</sup> – they could all be a bunch of softies). You can pay by check (to Jason Lavy) at the meetings, mail a check to the post office box, or by pay-pal (\$1 extra to do it this way – but you save a stamp and envelope).

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

New Mexico Member of the Year Award went to Jeff Boggs this year. He led an incredible amount of trails for the club members during the past year. We are a 4 wheel drive club and our mission is to get out on trails as often as possible and to as many different trails as possible. Jeff has done a lot to be sure that we accomplished that mission!!!

An SOP change is needed in order to add another reward for the most points. We have an award for the most lead trails and one for the most points earned. These 2 awards tend to be awarded to the same person. So it was proposed that 3<sup>rd</sup> award be added. It was suggested that we add a raffle for participation. This is how it would work: each point

earned by each member will get you a raffle ticket. The more points you have the more raffle tickets. A raffle ticket will be drawn at the end of the year from all of the raffle tickets that were awarded throughout the year (except that the winners of the other 2 awards are not eligible to be in the raffle).

Another proposed change will be that all awards will be \$100 prize, not a \$100 gift certificate to Desert Rat.

A third item was proposal for change. This would add wording on how ties for these awards will be addressed. Wording will be so that the awards will be split evenly among the winners that tied with each other.

SOP changes were accepted and approved as written.

Frank Whiston discussed more about the Santa Fe Forest. Currently, it is better to let NMOHVA take the lead on this. We need to support them as much as possible. Financial support is very important at this time. NMOHVA has started a fund to be able to pay legal fees and expenses. SWFWDA also has a fund that is used to fight legal battles and pay expenses incurred trying to keep trails open to the motorized public. At the SWFWDA Summer Quarterly meeting, we want to make a plea to SWFWDA, as representatives of NMOHVA and request a monetary donation of \$5,000 to NMOHVA. Motion carried with no objections. Pat & Sue Brady also made a personal donation of \$100 and Jack & Cathy Dickey made a donation of \$150.

We need to designate who will be the delegate for this Quarterly meeting of SWFWDA. Bob Norton is usually present at these meetings and has acted as delegate for the NM4W. Frank Whiston nominated as alternate delegate to SWFWDA in case Bob Norton is not present. The motion was carried with no objections.

New Officer Election: Dixon Patrick – President  
Mark Wolf - Vice President  
Jason Lavy - Treasurer  
Lauri Rector - Secretary  
Jeff Boggs – Trip Chairman  
Frank Whiston – Director of Environmental Affairs  
Tracy Bakewell – Program Chairman  
Glenn Vialpando - Historian

All were voted in with no objections.

The All Clubs Picnic was announced and additional information is posted on the website.

New Members voted in were: Richard Brooks – voted in. He wanted to think about accepting, but other than that, there were no objections.

Jennifer Chapin – voted in with no objections

The August meeting is at the Bakewells home in lovely Rio Rancho. Let's hope they can have us sitting on the shady side of their house.

A BIG Thank You to the Provance's for hosting the meeting. Cliff Meier was a bit upset that the pool was not open. He brought his Speedo. Some of us still can't get that picture out of our mind!!!!

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** 7:50 pm

**50/50 Raffle Winners:** \$50 went to: Erwin Grevin

**Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site - it is continually updated and added to and will have all of the contact information you need!!!**



## **President's Report**

by Cliff Meier

Well, this the last time you will have a chance to be bored by my ramblings. Next month it will be Dixon's turn as the club's next president. I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last two years. It has been a real privilege to be the president of the NM4Ws. It has been an easy job due to the active involvement of the club's members. Please continue to give Dixon the support you all gave me.

I would like to thank Frank and everyone else for the great Quarterly at Silverton. I had several folks from other SWFWDA clubs mention how well run the event was organized. The rain didn't even dampen spirits!

One parting comment: Please get or stay involved with the Travel Management Planning process. Frank and Mark can't do it all. The outcome of the process will affect us all!



## **NEW OFFICERS VOTED IN**

Congratulations and a big thanks to our new officers.

Dixon Patrick – President  
Mark Wolf - Vice President  
Jason Lavy - Treasurer  
Lauri Rector - Secretary  
Jeff Boggs – Trip Chairman  
Frank Whiston – Director of Environmental Affairs  
Tracy Bakewell – Program Chairman  
Glenn Vialpando - Historian

### **From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs By Frank Whiston**

What a busy month. I spent a week in Colorado and am now very busy writing an appeal on the SFNF Travel Management EIS. I really appreciate the input and interest in contributing to the appeal that I have received from a few of the club members. Like many other things there is strength in numbers, and the more perspectives that we can add to the appeal, the stronger case the club will make.

So, do all of these official documents intimidate you? Does it all seem to be over your head? There is still a way for you to contribute to the fight. You can donate money to the NMOHVA Access Defense Fund. It is tax deductible and the money, no matter the amount will be used to fight this decision and others like it.



### **NM4W Member Recovering from Surgery**

One of our club members, Linda Jurey, had surgery on Thursday and is doing fine. The club will send flowers today and she may go home on Saturday. If you would like to contact her she is at Presbyterian Main Hospital, 1100 Central SE, (Hospital phone: 505 841 1234)



## Member Surveys – Please Fill Them Out!

By Mark Wolf

Folks, if you have not gotten in your responses to the survey **PLEASE** get them to me ASAP. I want to work with the new officers and implement some of the ideas you have sent in. This is **YOUR** club and the officers want to see it meets **YOUR** needs. So, send them in via email, snail mail, or whatever means works for you. Thanks! Mark Wolf, your new Vice President



## Log Skidder Run

BY Cliff Meier

On Saturday Jul 7, 15 folks in 12 vehicles started on a quest to find the legendary log skidder in the Jemez. The skidder had been used in the last stages of logging in the area and then abandoned. Included were two guests who weren't sure what they had gotten themselves into! We all met at the Walatowa Visitor Center at 9:00am, the leader had to sleep in a little. With the help of GPS coordinates supplied by Frank W. and Mark W. the group was able to find the skidder. It was evident the side road on which the skidder was located had not been traveled much in recent history. Without the coordinates, we would have driven right by it.





After exploring the log skidder, which hasn't changed much over the years, and remembering the stories that Chuck Peeples used to tell us about the log skidder and logging in the area, we stopped for lunch.

We proceeded to find an overlook that Chris Sears suggested. The overlook was at the top of a steep climb with not much of a parking area at the top. Being

the first at the top of the limited area with a steep drop off on the other side got mine and Jeanne's attention! The view of Hwy 550 below and Cablezon in the distance was great. After the overlook, the group completed the loop and continued on home. A great time was had by all without any incidents!



## **Silverton Pre-run Tribulations !** **By Paul Caskey**

I had an exciting first day pre-running on Tuesday near Silverton, after driving up from Albuquerque and setting up my tent camp the night before. I headed over Black Bear - my first time ever - with Dan Pritchard in his Cherokee. I'm in my old solid leaf-spring YJ. Its motor crested 100,000 miles a while ago, and has needed some expected maintenance, such as a new alternator and starter this year. Little did I know that more maintenance was on the way.

We had lunch in the park at Telluride, and then headed up Imogene. The day was overcast and rainy. We didn't have any particular difficulties on the trails. The scenery is indescribable, as you'd expect in that area. I've done Imogene several times before, although in different vehicles and two decades ago.

At the crest of Imogene, we shut off our Jeeps and took a look around. After a while, we found ourselves standing inside a very wet cloud at 13,000 feet. We got back in and started up. Except my trusty old YJ didn't start. There was plenty of battery juice and cranking power, but it wouldn't fire up. So we rolled up our sleeves and popped the hood. Dan played mechanic while I mostly stared on like an idiot. He showed me how to check



the fuel pressure on the fuel injector rod - check. I popped the distributor cap and he tested for spark - check - sort of. We eventually shut the hood and put the tools away, as Dan looked on nervously at the lightning rods on the top of Imogene, and listened for thunder.

Then came the exciting tow + coast + engine brake opportunity down into Ouray. Dan got me into position, and I started down on my own. My YJ is a stick. I roll started it - no problem - wahoo! Oops, don't get excited. Coast to a stop, and the engine died again. I soon learned the throttle was unresponsive, even when "running". But at least the power brakes and steering worked! So the game became: roll downhill over the rocks as fast as



possible without ejecting the dog from the Jeep; engine brake as much as possible; coast over the flat parts and up hills; sometimes make it over the next hill; get a push from Dan if not. Try to resist going through unnecessary stream crossings (and failing).

Meanwhile we had a cell signal and had called for support. Dixon and Cliff played rescue squad, coming up the long way from Ouray. Then the road started to get better, and flatter (sort of), so the game changed: now drive strapped 20' behind Dixon's TJ,

engine braking and regular braking to keep the strap taught, while doing 20 mph, which felt like 60. Remember to blink. And breathe.....

We eventually parked my YJ on the street in Ouray overnight, and retrieved it the next morning with the help of Glenn Bontly's new dually diesel truck and X's flatbed vehicle trailer. Thanks again for all the help. A day at the Triangle garage in Silverton, which happens to be the home of a nationally renowned Jeep wrencher, revealed the culprit in my Jeep: worn-out ignition coil. I replaced that Thursday at 7am in time to start leading trails that day. Whew!

Then it was 3 easy days of breathtaking scenery, marmot spotting, good trails, good food, and good company. Not to mention healthy doses of history and wild imaginations seeing the landscape littered with rusty old mining relics. I might've gone exploring a little too far into some abandoned mine, I'm told, at one point. Apparently that's dangerous, or something. But all was well, and there were no more breakdowns. No fines that I can think of. Wow there's a lot of traffic on Imogene, these days, especially when the sun is out! We concluded our trip with an official 1-hour Mine Tour right down the street from the campground. Maybe that'll curtail my adventuresome spirit.



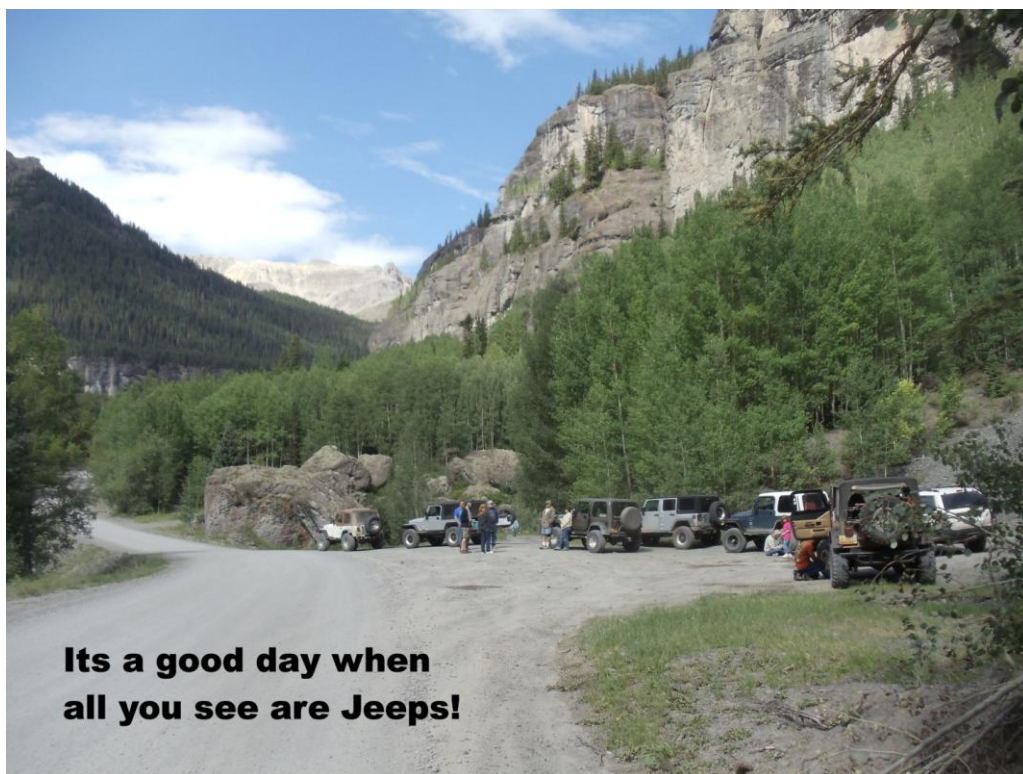


## **Silverton Sayings** **By Mary Turpin**

These were some of the many ways Paul Caskey and I found to express our sheer joy at being on the trails for three days in a row in the beautiful Colorado Rockies!



**"Any day spent above tree line is a good day!"**



**Its a good day when  
all you see are Jeeps!**



**The Leader Sees all the Marmots**  
**(Motto for the entire trip)**

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:Pres@nm4w.org">Pres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 891-8517 <a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:treas@nm4w.org">treas@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 <a href="mailto:prog@nm4w.org">prog@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 <a href="mailto:history@nm4w.org">history@nm4w.org</a>
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# Trail Tales



September 1, 2012

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2012

by Lauri Rector



The August meeting was held at the home of Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell in Rio Ranch, the City of Vision (I think that they need corrective eye wear though).

The meeting was called to order at 5:56 pm. (Dixon, it only took me 6 minutes to get my computer up, and get the template and last month's meeting minutes pulled up).

**GUESTS:** Bob MacNeal – drives a '97 TJ & Chevy K30 and something else, too, David & Roxanne Baltz, who drive a Jeep Commander, and Carol Bevel driving her new Toyota.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Jennifer Chapin, Craig Courtwright & Vicki Medlin, Leon Duggar, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Jason Lavy, Bob Norton, Dixon Patrick, Dan Pritchard, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Chris Sears, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Tahoe Zahn.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** I was prepared and started reading the July meeting minutes and it took just a few minutes before a motion was made, seconded and voted to dispense with the reading of July meeting minutes. Everyone must have already read them in the August Trail Tails.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** \$4,553.28 balance.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mark Wolf:** Mark asked visitors to enter their application for membership on the web site. He then explained that they need to earn 5 points before they can be voted in as members. Mark also gave us all a brief explanation of the year end rewards for the most points earned by members. Fines will be assessed to Paul Caskey, his coil went out at the top of Imogene Pass. Dan Pritchard, Dixon and Cliff played rescue squad, while Glenn Bontly used his truck and trailer to take Paul's Jeep to Silverton for repairs. Dixon Patrick had a control arm come off, when he was reconnecting his sway bar – a missing bolt was replaced easily at the hardware store up there. Guess is that they sell a lot of these. Travis Bakewell ratted his dad, Tracy, out – alleging that he lost a tail gate, but Tracy argued that he shouldn't be fined as he was not on the trail when it happened. Don Roy is going to be fined for leading a trail and showing up with no gas. Glenn Viapondo will be fined for losing his tail pipe on a trail. For the benefit of the guests, Mark Wolf explained the fine system and its purpose (primarily public humiliation disguised as fun). Dan Pritchard then admitted to everyone that he missed a turn and it took him about a mile before he

realized it. Travis then tried ratting his Dad out again for something else that didn't happen on the trail.

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

Santa Fe National Forest comment period ends on Monday. Frank prepared a 35 page document on the behalf of the NM4W. Big applause to Frank for the document that he prepared for the club; several have read it and commented that it was very well written.

The public comment period continues on the Trackway Monument in the Las Cruces area. Resource plans (like the EIA with the National Forest) are being done by the BLM.

SW4WDA did agree to release \$4,000 to NMOHVA to be used for legal fees and such to continue the battles here in New Mexico.

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

**TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs:**

PAST EVENTS:

**Summer Quarterly in Silverton in July:** Not mentioned in this part of the meeting. Please see New Business, the event was a success!!!

*Could you use a \$100 Gift Certificate? There will be 3 ways to win!!!*

**BE A TRAIL LEADER**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**8/2/12-Cat Mesa, Jemez-Jeff Boggs:** Meet at the Walatowa Gas Station at 8:00 for driver's meeting and sign up – will leave at 8:30 am sharp. This is an all day trip, rocky and 4 low. Stock can do the trail, with low range. Lifted vehicles will have easier time of it. See web-site for full details if you're interested in going.

**9/1/12 and 9/2/12- Mt. Blanca-Leon Duggar:** Start at 9am at the parking area at the base of the mountain. 35's needed, but 33's will work if you have lockers. If the weather isn't too bad, everyone will spend the night at the top. But, if the weather is bad, everyone will go ahead and come back down the mountain on Saturday. Mark Wolf said that it is rated 9 out of 10 and there are 5 obstacles. Leon added that due to several deaths (resulting from drinking and/or doing it at night), the obstacles have been modified and are easier. To get there take Highway 285 to Alamosa, then turn right and it is about 20 minutes from there – near the Great Sand Dunes State Park. There are more details on this run on the website if you're interested.

**Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site – it is continually updated and added to and will have all of the contact information you need!!!**

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** Tracy is trying to figure out what he does - we wonder that ourselves. Tracy finally remembered that he sells T-Shirts (with the club logo, of course) and he sells raffle tickets for the 50/50 raffle. Tracy said that he checked into getting more club license plates. He went back to the same place that Frank Whiston went to originally. The cost to the club will be \$4.45 each, but 125 is the minimum order. This is about what we did 3 years ago when we 1<sup>st</sup> bought plates. A motion was made for the club to make the purchase as several said that they would like another one and there are new people in the club now. Then there was a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Tracy got out a plate for everyone to see. It was voted that we order more.

Tracy also discussed that it has been suggested that more shirts need to be ordered. Large or x-large is running very low (he could not remember which size). He would like to get 25 more in the sizes where he is running the lowest. He wants to get short-sleeved. But, Leon Duggar said that East Mountain people want long sleeve (Leon could use some more insulation). Mark Wolf said that he wants a 4 color logo again someday and that is going to cost the club some money. It was voted successfully to get more short-sleeve t-shirts, single color logo, in the size(s) that we are running the lowest in.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Viapondo:** In Glenn's absence, Dixon explained to the guests the role of the club Historian. Frank Whiston said that Picasa is currently full. The club's website has unlimited space, but it is programmed to upload only 1 photo at a time (we all have lives that we want to live). Don Roy (webmeister) has some ideas that could work on bulk uploading of photos, but hasn't re-programmed the website (again – that life we all want to live thing). Discussions about all the photos people have and the book that was made for club members commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the club made it very apparent that the club members appreciate the importance of preserving the club history and memories.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** Was not present at this meeting. Even though it was not said at the meeting, he was missed by all.

**EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy:** Please see above for Web-Meister's Report – ditto.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Pay dues by end of August. (If you're reading this in the newsletter and it didn't come out before 9/1/12, you're too late).

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

SOPs – Dixon stated that it was discussed that there needed to be a change to the SOP's on how the reimbursement worked. He and others would like to see that amounts up to \$100 would only need 2 officers to approve before a meeting and someone then can be reimbursed for club expenses. The expense and the reimbursement would then be discussed at the next meeting. This was approved unanimously.

Erwin Greven had an in-law of an in-law (he said brother at 1<sup>st</sup>, and then it went to second cousins once removed or something. I think he may be from Kentucky, or were these Jeannie's in-laws? I

don't know, I couldn't keep up with it) that was interested in membership. He does not live in the area. Dixon advised that he can become an Associate Member. He doesn't have to earn points or be voted in, just needs to apply and pay dues. It was explained the difference between an Associate Membership (must live over 50 miles from the Big I) and full membership (lives inside 50 miles of the Big I).

Frank G Whiston asked that the club thank the Meier's (Cliff and Jeanne) for their hard work to make the Summer Quarterly a success. Too bad I can't record sound; there was a big round of applause for the Meier's and all they do for the club.

## **AWARD CEROMONY:**

Most trails lead: Frank G Whiston

Most points: Cliff Meier

Raffle from points earned (each point earns a ticket – most trails lead & most points winners not eligible): Frank R. Whiston (there is a scam going on with this family. The ticket was drawn by Frank G. Whiston. I think Rebecca drew her grandpa's ticket at the May meeting. It's a scam, I tell you, a scam!!!)

New Members voted in: No new members voted in at the August meeting.

Thanks to Tracy & Cheryl Bakewell for hosting the meeting, especially since they had to have everyone inside since it turned windy just as we were getting ready to eat.

Frank G and Frank R Whiston want their checks from their awards donated to NMOHVA. NMOHVA need all of the help they can get, the legal fees will quickly drain their funds for keeping our trails open. This is really great idea from them and very generous. (OK, so I'll admit, at least their scam is for a good reason)

Frank Whiston shared that NMOHVA has a lady that will be making comments for them. Also, Black Feather group is writing an appeal.

At the Summer Quarterly, Daystar donated \$500 to NMOHVA. (First they donated t-shirts & hats to the raffle that we weren't planning on having). Cliff Meier and Frank Whiston thought to do an auction, and auction off Daystar's donations and donate all of the proceeds to NMOVA. When the Daystar guy found out about the auction, he said throw the shirts out to the crowd and he will donate \$500 to NMOHVA. He was discussing with a club member how vital keeping the trails open is to his business. And, it is not only the aftermarket business that is dependent, the dealerships are as well.

Casa appreciated us being at their recent event to let potential buyers know that there is a 4X4 club in the area.

Mark Wolf couldn't make it to the summer quarterly due to saving his vacation time for his 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary trip to Alaska, but he did hear that the NM4W's ran a very organized summer



quarterly this year and the whole club deserves a big applause, and we all applauded!! (We also wish Mark and Joan a very Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary).

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** 6:38pm

**50/50 Raffle Winners:**

\$43 went to: Tahoe Zahn (he may have a scam going, too, but who is he working with???)

Snatch Block: Erwin Greven



## **President's Report**

**By Dixon Patrick**

Well here we are at the beginning of a new year, and my first presidents report, I thank you for your support. In this new year I would like to have a few activities that are not meetings or runs, but more informational. Last month Lauri hosted a tune you CB event, see CB 101 in the "Articles" tab on the web site. I believe the participants learned at least one thing about CBs they did not know. Once we purchase a vehicle it is assumed we know how to use all the cool stuff like winches, high lift jacks and have driving skills. I did not grow up jeeping and have only been driving a few years, so I have ruined a winch cable, a sling and had the jeep fall off the jack (hopefully the VP is not reading this). I would like for you guys to let me know what you would like to learn about but reluctant to ask. I am thinking of things like, how to use a high lift jack in different situations and be safe, get a bead back on the rim, change a U-Joint in the field. Send your ideas to me and I promise to keep it anonymous.



## **Jeff Boggs Voted 4-Wheeler of the Year !**

By member vote, Jeff Boggs was announced as 2012 NM4W 4-Wheeler of the Year at the July meeting. In the past year Jeff took wheelers on varied, easy-to-hard trails including Cat Mesa in the Jemez Mountains, Riley ghost town, and the Palomas Gap trail south of Truth or Consequences. A well-organized but relaxed leader, Jeff's trail rides are fun and interesting. Jeff says, "I'm honored to receive this award. It's easy to lead runs because NM4Wers are a good, cooperative group." Jeff has also served as a Board Member of NMOHVA (New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance). An avid four-wheeler, dirt-biker, and camper, he supports keeping the public lands open for multiple uses.

Jeff and Paula Boggs have been active NM4W members for four years. Jeff is a Registered Nurse who works in dialysis treatment and Paula is a Speech Pathologist with the VA. Jeff often works



weekends but makes the time to get outta town and into the woods or desert when possible. Congratulations, Jeff, and thanks for your contributions to NM4W and the greater four-wheeling community.

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

2011 Dixon Patrick  
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

## **Trail Leader and Participation Winners Whiston Family Sweep**

It was a Whiston family sweep. Frank G. Whiston won the Trail Leader award for leading the most trips in 2012. In the random drawing for participation, Frank G. drew the ticket of his dad, Frank R. Whiston. Under the new procedure, members are allotted raffle tickets for participating in day trips, overnights, and meetings. The more one participates, the more tickets and better chance of winning. The Whistons each won \$100 and immediately donated their prizes to NMOHVA. Their donations will benefit the land action fund and defend against public land road closures. Congratulations to Frank G. and Frank R. and thanks for your commitment to NM4W.





## Director of Environmental Affairs By Frank Whiston

So, the SFNF appeal to the decision on Travel Management has been sent in. The deadline was August 20, so the region 3 office has 45 days to respond, so we are waiting to see what happens. My kids recently received the new movie the Lorax, which carries quite an environmental message that I tended to think was quite extreme, but there is a quote from Dr. Suess that was used in that movie which I think applies to the land access situation we have at hand.

*“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,  
nothing is going to get better. It's not.”*

This is where we are at today. Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot about continued access to our public lands, nothing is going to get better. It's not! Members of NM4W have taken the first step by choosing to be a part of this club. This battle is never going to end and we need people like you to care a whole awful lot to not back down. If we just remain silent, nothing is going to get better. I encourage all of you to please, send a message to our legislators when called upon and support the groups who are fighting to keep our public lands open to the public. Together, we do more!



## Recreational Trails Program Needs Your Help By Mark Wolf

This is soooooo easy to do and only takes a minute or so. PLEASE write to Governor Martinez and let her know this is a sacred cow that the State of New Mexico cannot afford to let go, especially since we are counting on this money source for trails and kiosks after the Transportation Rule takes effect. Go to this website and fill out a note to her:

[http://www.governor.state.nm.us/Contact\\_the\\_Governor.aspx](http://www.governor.state.nm.us/Contact_the_Governor.aspx)

It's real easy!

### NEW MEXICO RTP IN DANGER IMPORTANT ACTION ITEM INCLUDED

Dear BRC Action Alert Subscriber

*If you live in NM, immediate action is needed to help save funding opportunities for your trails -  
See ACTION ITEM below!*

We received another urgent request for action from Marianne Wesley Fowler and Derrick A. Crandall with the Coalition for Recreational Trails ([CRT](#)).

BRC works with CRT in efforts to preserve the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), and they sent us word that the **RTP programs in New Mexico and Florida are in very real danger of being lost.** The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has opened the door to unilateral action by state's Department of Transportation by specifically allowing opt-out notice by "the Governor's designee" and not requiring that this designee be the individual identified by the Governor as responsible for the RTP program.

Why is this a major problem? Because in New Mexico, the New Mexico Department of Transportation has asked Governor Martinez to opt out of the RTP and that she plans to do so by notifying the U.S. Secretary of Transportation before the September 1, 2012, deadline.

In Florida, we understand that the Florida Department of Transportation plans to ask Governor Scott to notify the U.S. Secretary of Transportation that Florida wants to opt out of the RTP. Since the deadline for the Governor's notice to the Secretary is September 1, 2012, there is very little time to save the RTP in Florida.

### **ACTION ITEM**

We must do all that we can before September 1st to ensure that these state Governors understand the importance of this program, and how many of their constituents care passionately about trails and the RTP.

Please contact your Governor and ask them not to opt out of the worthy RTP program. Don't assume your Governor knows the value of Rec Trails. Help them understand the importance of the RTP to both motorized and non-motorized trail users, and to the state's economy, so the green visor folks in your state won't convince them otherwise.

Contact information for each Governor is listed below.

#### **New Mexico**

The Honorable Susana Martinez

Governor of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

490 Old Santa Fe Trail

Room 400

Santa Fe, NM 87501

Phone: (505) 476-2200

Fax: (505) 476-2226

Contact Governor Susana Martinez via [Web Form](#).

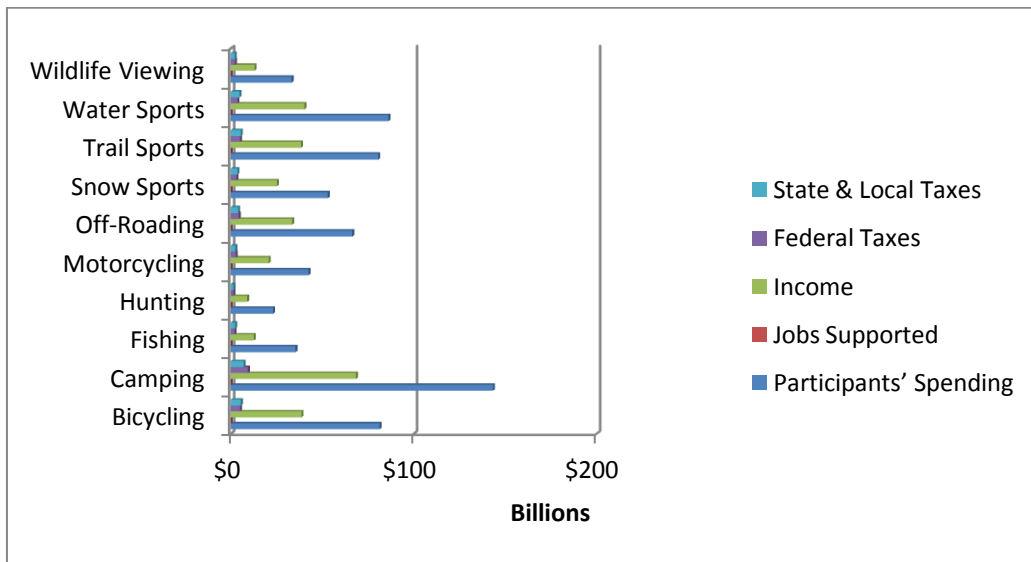
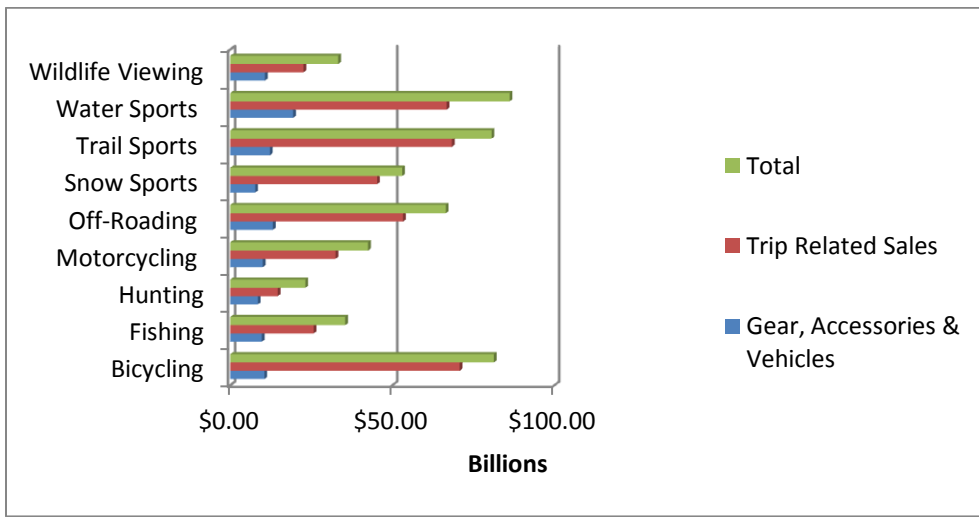


## **Off-roading contributes Billions of dollars to the Economy**

**By Frank Whiston**

The Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is working on an [economic impact report](#) which includes off-roading. The group has released some of their preliminary numbers, which are worth sharing. OIA groups ATVs, ROVs (side by side or UTV), Dune Buggies, and Jeeping all together as one category in this study. After recent club trips to Moab and Silverton, I can see why they are tied together in a national level study. All modes listed above were out on the same back roads and trails. Of the nine categories of outdoor recreation participants, those participating in Off-roading annually spend more than most, to the tune of ~\$66.5 Billion!

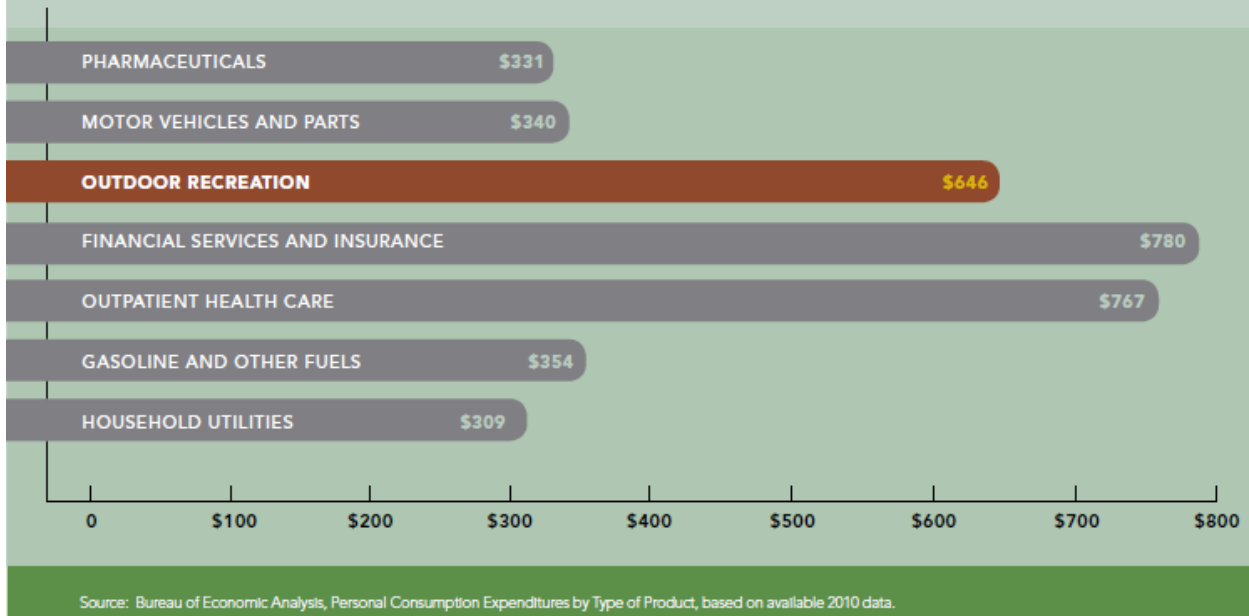
Off-roaders support nearly 700,000 jobs annually which generate over \$4.4 Billion in Federal taxes as well as ~\$4.1 Billion at the state and local levels. The OIA report is still being worked and will include numbers for each individual state. This is expected in early 2013.



If it wasn't clear to you before, these numbers ought to speak volumes to what a dis-service the agencies that are managing our public lands are doing to the general public. The way that federal agencies in New Mexico has chosen to implement the Travel Management rule is crippling this segment of the economy. The OIA study makes it clear that Outdoor Recreation is a huge player, see below:

# An Overlooked Economic Giant

Annual Consumer Spending, in Billions



The West is big country and nearly every Outdoor Recreationalist relies on motorized transportation to get to our public lands weather it is for hiking, camping, hunting, or fishing. The impact of restricting access impacts everyone, not just the Off-roaders.



## Cat Mesa Run By Jeff Boggs

On August 26th, Sunday, 25 vehicles got together at the Walatowa Visitor center, in the Jemez Mountains. We all had a common purpose; travel up on Cat Mesa for an all day exploration of this seldom used forest road.

After a sign up and drivers meeting, we lined up and drove a short distance to the dirt road that goes to the base of the Cat Mesa switchbacks. We passed through a gate at the base of the climb and began the steep climb to the top. It was quite the sight to look down on all these 4x4s snaking their way up the side of the mesa.



We had a lot of jeeps, some Toyotas, a bronco, Nissans, a hummer and a dodge ram. Some were filled with kids and dogs, men and women drivers, old and young - a good mix of folks.

Getting up on Cat Mesa is a two step affair. And once we climbed to the second level, the trail gets tight, rocky and sometimes hard to follow. I tied some red

ribbon on some branches and there are cairns there also. We came to the first of several steps, with an easy bypass to the right. Most tried the steps and we continued on.

Erwin Greven volunteered to be tailgunner. I cannot thank him enough. A good tailgunner makes everything easier for the trip leader and keeps problems to a minimum.

There are several places on the Cat Mesa trail where we have to climb up ledges. Most vehicles made it through these areas, but the tow strap was used several times. This is a good time to remind drivers of the importance of airing down tires pressure. Traction is much better as tires will wrap around the rocks instead of pushing against them.

We got everybody up the ledge and took a 40 minutes lunch break. Then the caravan moved off the rocky part on the forest road and began the mainly dirt section. This also got us into the taller pinons and ponderosas. Thankfully, clouds showed up and we got some shade. Later came some light rain showers.



We were ahead of schedule, so I took us on a spur road, and I was looking of an overlook into the Jemez valley.

It took awhile to find it, but the views of Battleship Rock from a cliff to the southeast were worth it.



Still raining lightly, we turned around and headed back the main forest road and eventually met up with forest road 10. Lucky for us it was raining, so no dust. Forest road 10 takes us all the way down to Paliza campground, then to pavement in Ponderosa, NM. At 5:00 pm, we were back at Walatowa to air up, visit, and pull

a screw out of Jennifer's Jeep tire. We plugged it and she was off to Los Lunas. Special thanks to Ralph Mora for bringing his chain saw, because we did not need it (If he wouldn't have brought it, we would have needed it badly!). And Pat Brady for spotting some folks up some ledges.

I will try to organize a trail maintenance day for Cat Mesa, filling in some areas around some culverts at the base of the switchbacks, and trimming back a few tree limbs. Marking the trail, so no one gets off the trail is needed too. This is a rugged trail and we want to keep it that way, but some maintenance will keep it from washing out.

Thanks again to everybody who did this ride. Hope everybody enjoys this trail as much as I do.



## **Black Bear Pass Trip Report** **By Dixon Patrick**

Well, I got to Silverton and it was just overwhelming how big it is. While sitting outside to read I found myself just looking up at the mountains. Most of the trails in the area are not hard but the expanse can only be described as BIG, it's just BIG. One of the trails I got to lead was Black Bear Pass. I needed to pre-run it and ended up leading it that day. Glad I did, and what am I thinking all at the same time. It is not a hard trail; you never bang around, but you must pay attention. Some of the views are like being in an airplane.

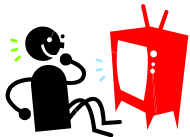
On the day we ran, it looked like rain, but never did while we were on the high sections. The trail starts out like any other, kind of flat with trees. Once above timer line you wonder who would ever



come up here, then you realize the power of gold and silver. We passed an old mine on the top and started our decent. At one point there is a sign, **“From this point, one way traffic, down only”**. Kind of gives you a feeling of commitment. This is where it gets fun and you have to pay attention. It’s not hard, but it can mess with your mind. There is plenty of room and if you’re going to take in the views you have to stop. Several of the switchbacks are sharp and require that you back up.

At the top of the falls there are some more mining ruins. On the day we ran it, a dead “Shake and Bake” (I had to be told what that was) was blocking the trail. What’s a “Shake and Bake? Well, the tourists pile in a full size pickup with seats welded in the back and no top, where they are gracefully “Shaken” by the rough road and “Baked” by the sun. In our case we had a broken one on the trail. We were able to pass without a problem, but I may have taken some paint off the truck doing it “just to be safe”.

At the lower section we stopped to view the Bridal Vail Falls and the old power house on the side of the hill, and then we were off to lunch in the park down in Telluride. I think Telluride is short for “I Tell You Ride a Cool Jeep”. The second half of the trail was going to be Imogene, but due to time and the fact that we had BBQ waiting on us we elected to return via Ophir pass. It was easy and fast by comparison. Rumor has it that full size Suburbans make the trip, but we know for a fact that one of our own in an H3 made it.



## **Can there be television worth watching?**

**By Phil Rodacy**

I’m not sure how many of you have seen it, but there’s a new show on the Discovery Channel called **One Car Too Far**. It airs at 9:00 on Sunday evening. Former British Special Forces soldier Gary Humphrey and Southern California-based car fanatic and problem solver Bill Wu are dropped off in remote areas of Chile with a 10-year old Jeep and have to make their way back to civilization. Here’s a short write-up from the Discovery Channel’s website:

### **DISCOVERY CHANNEL SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR WITH "ONE CAR TOO FAR" PREMIERING ON AUGUST 19 at 9PM ET/PT**

*Five Part Series Marks the First Discovery Networks International Originated Co-Produced Series with Discovery Channel*

Meet survival's odd couple and strap in for a rescue mission like no other with **ONE CAR TOO FAR**, premiering **SUNDAY, August 19th at 9PM ET/PT**. The all-new five part series, the first Discovery Networks International originated co-produced series with Discovery Channel, follows former British Special Forces soldier Gary Humphrey and Southern California-based car fanatic and problem solver Bill Wu as they enter remote locations in Chile and work together to recover a four wheel drive vehicle that has been flown in and dropped into locations where no car has gone before. They're given a tracker to find the car, and once they do, the adventure begins.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihmo5xFZUYk>

Over the course of three days, Gary and Bill employ unusual survival techniques and quirky mechanical tricks to achieve their main objective: return the car to civilization! Each episode of **ONE CAR TOO FAR** features a different climate in Chile, a country that hosts at least seven major climatic subtypes, including desert, alpine tundra, humid subtropical, oceanic, and Mediterranean. While the climates change in each episode, the one constant is the vehicle they must return to safety - a red all terrain jeep.



Teamwork is crucial as Bill's abilities to work with and maneuver the car through plethora environments are coupled with Gary's survival skills acquired after 17 years serving in the Royal Marines and the Special Forces. Together they transform the car into an all-purpose vehicle to get them over, under, around, and through just about any obstacle on the road back to safety. In addition to rescuing the car, Bill and Gary must also survive in harsh climates, and they use a range of techniques to do

so, including taking ordinary parts from the car to create hunting weapons. With no real supplies, instinct and expertise take the front seat each week. **ONE CAR TOO FAR** ends each week with a spectacular do-or-die car challenge that requires conspicuous survival skills and supreme mechanical talent.

Throughout his time in the armed forces, Gary Humphrey honed his survival skills in every imaginable environment - from the Arctic, to jungles, to the desert. Bill Wu is a life-long car fanatic and has a penchant for car collecting and racing; his high-octane lifestyle suits his extremely high energy, upbeat personality. Bill prides himself on thinking far outside the box when it comes to solving even the most outrageous and complex mechanical problems.

**ONE CAR TOO FAR** is produced with Discovery Channel by Discovery Networks International with David Pritikin serving as Executive Producer for Discovery Channel. Sarah T. Davies is Executive Producer for Discovery Networks International, with Sarah Swingler and Sanjay Singhal executive producing for Dragonfly.



## NM4W Officers

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<b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:treas@nm4w.org">treas@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 <a href="mailto:prog@nm4w.org">prog@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 <a href="mailto:history@nm4w.org">history@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Trip Chairman</b> Jeff Boggs 867-5848 <a href="mailto:trails@nm4w.org">trails@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Environmental Affairs</b> Frank Whiston 292-1541 <a href="mailto:land@nm4w.org">land@nm4w.org</a>	<b>SWFWDA Delegate</b> Bob Norton 281-5315 <a href="mailto:n5epa@flash.net">n5epa@flash.net</a>
Web Site Administrator <a href="mailto:webadmin@nm4w.org">webadmin@nm4w.org</a>		





# Trail Tales



October 1, 2012

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2012

by Lauri Rector



Our September meeting was held at the home of Leon & Marcia Duggar, located in the chilly East Mountains (does anyone have a long sleeved t-shirt; I'm getting chilled).

The meeting was called to order at 6:25: pm by Mark Wolf who filled in for Dixon Patrick who was ill (please don't ever get sick again Dixon!!!)

**GUESTS:** Erick Lyke – Jeep TJ Unlimited (neighbor), Chuck Larribe – has been out east for 40 years and is now back in NM – Jeep Liberty, Mike Blohm – same TJ that he had before – '03 TJ, There was another guest who didn't introduce himself and is not on the list – but I do remember he was in a 2012 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited (*Note: the guest was Greg Radtke*).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Jennifer Chapin, Leon & Marcia Duggar, Erwin Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Jason & Sara Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Mark Mullin, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** Correction to July meeting minutes – Jack & Kathy Dickey donated \$250, not \$150 as reported. Correction to August meeting minutes, SWFWDA donated \$5,000 – not \$4,000 as reported and it was donated to NM4W, not NMOHVA as reported. I missed noting Henry Wackerbarth at the August meeting. I spoke to him, but realized his name was not on the membership list and I couldn't remember it either.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** \$10,155.71 balance.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mark Wolf:** Mark explained the points to the visitors. We ask member to earn 5 points so that you have a chance to get know the club and we get a chance to know you. Earn 1 point for attending a meeting or a run. You get an extra point if you lead a run or host a meeting. For example, the Duggars earned 2 points tonight for hosting and attending the meeting. Points accumulate from 8/1/12 to 7/31/12, and every point earns you a raffle ticket (unless you earn the most points). There is a raffle after the end of the year for all those that did not earn the most points. \$100 gift certificates are awarded the most lead trails, the most points earned and the raffle drawing.

Mark had asked everyone to complete a Survey. He has been reading those that have been turned in and they revealed that people want more trail rides and more participation. So, he called a Board

meeting recently and it was decided that we would give new trail leaders 5 points for the 1<sup>st</sup> trail that they lead this year.

Mark explained the fines that were mentioned earlier in the meeting during the Event Chairman's report. He explained that "incidents" on the trail that went against favorable four-wheeling were noted and fines assessed against the wrong-doers. An example would be if you're leading a trail and have to turn around. He did let everyone know that this kind of fine can be avoided if you call the ride an "exploratory run" and then you don't get fined if you get lost and have to turn around.

No fines to report from the recent runs, except for Jeff Boggs. He was voted NM4W of the year and was awarded a plaque. He went to hang it up and it fell off the nail and fell on the floor and now it is cracked and has a scratch on it. Frank Whiston put a quarter in the fine can and said that he would explain later????

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:** 22 appeals on Santa Fe National Forest have been filed, not only from people and organizations who want to ensure access to the public lands, but also from those who do not want people to enjoy their land.

We were invited to talk to Forest Supervisors for a phone interview. Jeff Boggs was able to do this for our club. The conversation was regarding the comments that he had sent in a while ago. He discussed the census and the fact that they did not include all of the roads in the inventory. With an inaccurate inventory, the impacts of the closures were bigger than they implied. He also told them that they did not show the comments as they were written; they combined and paraphrased them before publishing them. Jeff also brought up for discussion with them that Jemez Springs will lose a lot of business if they close the roads and the places to camp. He said that they seemed to listen. Their response on the census was that some trails are parallel to each other and go to the same place, so they only counted 1 trail. Then they asked him if he wanted to drop his appeal, they are getting pushed by people that wanted more closures. Jeff told him that he was not interested in dropping his appeal. Jeff went on to say that there are people from out of state that will also be upset with the closures and changes in camping. Jeff asked if it will be on the official record that he talked to them and they said yes, that it was being officially recorded that they had talked.

Frank said that NMOHVA has filed 3 appeals and co-signers were village of Jemez Springs and a conservancy group for the Aqueduct. The appeal period ended August 20<sup>th</sup> and there were 45 days for them to be considered and then another 15 days to implement. So, the trails are still open now. Region 3 is where the appeals are being answered, not at the Forest Service level.

The comment period is still open (on EA?) on the Trackways plan in Las Cruces. The preferred alternative is to shut everything down and you have to get a permit to get into the area.

More discussion on how the review process works with Region 3. For an example, in Mountainair, they told Cibola to do it over after NMOHVA's appeal. We lost more trails after they did it over, so that appeal kind of backfired on us.

After trails are closed, we still have a possibility of getting them back open. It may mean that adding bridges or some improvement is needed in order to make the trail viable. It could mean that we have to get grants to make improvements, but it could be done.

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) was discussed as a possibly being a viable argument against closing roads. Close the road and no access unless you are a pedestrian, will the forest be wheel chair accessible?

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

**KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!!**

(Sticker on bumper of a Scrambler on the Rubicon Trail – Keep public lands open/don't commit SUWAcide)

### **TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs:**

#### PAST EVENTS:

**8/2/12-Cat Mesa, Jemez-Jeff Boggs:** Jeff said that he had a lot of people show up, mostly guests. This made for a very long line of people, but it was still all good. Jeff reminded guests to go ahead and sign up on line before they go to their 1<sup>st</sup> club event. The tow strap came out a few times when a few folks got hung up on the ledges. It rained in the pine forest just after lunch. He went on an exploratory run to an overlook where they could see Battle Ship Rock. Then there were some sprinkles all afternoon that kept the dust down on the road back. They got back by 5 pm. Jennifer Chapin got a nail in her tire and had some problems getting home, the patch didn't hold too well. But, it was nothing too major and she got the tire repaired the next day.

**9/1/12 and 9/2/12- Mt. Blanca-Leon Duggar:** Leon and a Commander are the only ones signed up to go on the run and he was feeling weary about going with only 2 vehicles. The night before the trip Leon had to stop to pick up the girls and a Jeep pulls in the parking lot and it's on 37's. Leon went up to the driver and said that he should forget any plans that he had for the weekend and go with him on a run up to the top of Mount Blanca. The guy says no and they get their kids. He starts backing out of his parking spot and stops and asks Leon when they are leaving. David and Roxanne in the Commander turned out to be very experienced; the Commander was well built, much to Leon's relief. They came upon a YJ on the trail that ran off the road and the driver was hurt. They helped him and got him fixed enough to make it down to the bottom of the trail. The Commander didn't make it over Jaws one, so Leon hooked up to them and tugged them over. They decided not go to the Blue Lake and went back down the trail. The Commander lost a bead on Jaws 1 on the way back down. Leon got them aired back up and they made it down with no problems. They camped and cooked at the bottom the night before and then a 2<sup>nd</sup> night before heading home. (This sounds like the way I'd want to do it, rather than freezing and soaking to death at the top all night).

# BE A TRAIL LEADER

**New Trail Leaders will earn 5 points on their 1<sup>st</sup> trail lead this year**

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Gordy's Hill – Jeff Boggs & Don Roy:** Weekend of October 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>. No set dates or trails or any details right now. Details will be posted on the website as soon as they get figured out.

**Monzanos – Cliff Meier:** details will be posted on the web-site

**Food Drive – Frank Whiston:** No details yet, usually at 4:00 the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Load your rig with food to donate. Normally Channel 4 will interview the club. Jason Deli's afterward for dinner.

*Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site - it is continually updated and added to and will have all of the contact information you need!!!*

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** \$33 so far for the 50/50 raffle. He has sweatshirts for sale. He also has t-shirts from the quarterly, they are all red. License plates have been ordered. T-shirts were also ordered. He has hats and patches with him.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Viapondo:** There was no historians report tonight.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** – I'm just now remembering I didn't hear what Don said. I was going to ask him, really I was.

**EDITOR'S REPORT - Phil Rodacy:** I think that I was looking at pictures that Travis was pulling up on the internet and showing Cheryle and Carol during this part of the meeting. I don't have anything typed and can't seem to recall anything that they said. If someone lets me know what I missed, I will mention it in the next meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Frank Whiston was to present Cliff and Jeannie Meier with a gift certificate for dinner at the Cooperage and movie tickets. It was the clubs way to say thank you to them for all of their hard work during the summer quarterly (see August meeting notes for the discussion and vote). Now, we are being told as to why he paid a fine. He forgot to bring the gift certificates and tickets with him to the meeting. He is far too young to have a memory that works that way.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

NM4W did receive the \$5,000 check from SWFWDA. It was voted and agreed to send the money to NMOHVA to aid them in the costs of the litigation that we will most likely be facing in order to keep trail opens. It was also mentioned that maybe the club could add to the \$5,000 and give NMOHVA more than \$5,000. Upcoming expenses were discussed, club dues, church rental fees, the next quarterly. It was also discussed as to what we historically had in the bank. It was also mentioned that NMOHVA could add to their list of the people that are making donations to them to fight to keep trail opens. Also, we can do the \$1,000 now and down the road consider giving them more. There was a lot of discussion and I decided to just type this one line (sorry, but I had been typing for about an hour straight, except for when I looked at few of the pictures on Travis's phone and I really needed a break, I did not sign up for marathon meetings).

A motioned carried that the club will add a \$1,000 check to the \$5,000 check that will go to NMOHVA.

Jeff Boggs brought up the fact that some people have asked that the meetings not be on a school night and that maybe meetings can be continued to be held at member's homes. It was basically agreed that no change would be done now.

Thanks to Leon & Marcia Duggar, as well as Anna and Becca for their help, for hosting the September meeting

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 7:36 pm**

**50/50 Raffle Winners:** Bob and Carol Provance were the big wieners – I mean winners.



## **President's Report By Dixon Patrick**

Well, summer seems to be staying a while longer, but remember we are moving the Meeting location back to the Church, starting 11 Oct. The Santa Fe Forest Travel Management plan is nearing a date to close much of our forest. From what I understand many of the closed roads will not have a pole gate to indicate they are closed and we become responsible to "know" what is open and what is closed. We're fighting it the best we can with NMOHVA. So what about the future of closed trails, Frank has some good ideas to reopen some trails by addressing the issue they documented. Details will follow but we need to take action.

Roadrunner Food Bank collection is going to be in November. I believe Frank will head this again so start collecting food items.

I see we have an incentive for new trail leaders, 5 points for first timers. If you're looking to be a leader, ask around and find an active trail leader to co-lead the trail. It will reduce the stress of that first ride. OK I got a challenge for the active trail leaders; find a new leader to support.



I am still looking to hear from you on topics with 4 wheeling you would like to know more about.

OK, see you on the trail.



## **TRAIL LEADERS NEEDED!**

**By Jeff Boggs**

The New Mexico 4 Wheelers club needs more trip leaders. Several members regularly volunteer to lead rides, and these folks are much appreciated. What we are trying to encourage is other members, of this wonderful club, to step up and lead club rides. Many of you know of some wonderful 4x4 areas, in New Mexico. We are asking that you set up a ride for the club, and show us some of your favorite roads.

These rides can range from easy to hard, and anything in between. The rides do not have to be something new and different, the ride can be a repeat of some trail the club has done before.

### **Leading a club ride is not hard.**

**Posting it on the club web site:** Email or call the Trip Coordinator, Jeff Boggs, [j-pboggs@q.com](mailto:j-pboggs@q.com) 505-867-5848. Just give him your date, time, and name of your ride. The Trip Coordinator will open your event on the Calendar page and assign it to you. He will let you know that it is open. A good description of ride, level of difficulty, etc is helpful. Saturdays or Sundays are both good days. Weekend (2 day) events have been done. Find another member, who might like to lead one day and you lead the next day. Ask a long time member to be 2nd in line, so they can help you with questions that might come up. Members and guests may be emailing you with questions. Now you can edit the information, at any time before the ride, on the Calendar page. Any questions, just ask.

**Leading the event:** Get to the meeting place before the posted meeting time. Have arriving drivers sign a "sign in" sheet. Have a drivers meeting to discuss route, Details of ride, and approximate finish time. You do need a good CB radio to communicate with the group. You need a "tail gunner" to be at the back of the group. You can line up someone for this job before your ride or ask someone to do this important job. I really cannot say enough about how helpful the tail gunner is to the success of a ride. He can close gates, relay info about the back of your group's progress, etc. The tail gunner needs a good CB, also.

It is not your sole responsibility to help everyone get through every part of the trail. This ride is about team work and many drivers are on this ride to drive, but to also help each other get to the end of the trail. No one is ever left out on the trail; we get everybody out, safe and sound.

**After the event:** Your sign up sheet and the club webpage of your event are used to close the event. You go onto your event and give each rider his or her point for going on the ride. Members/guests lists are there. You can fill this out. Any questions, ask Trip Coordinator or webmaster, Don Roy.

Points for leading a ride has been one extra point for leading, besides the one point everyone gets for attending the event. To encourage new leaders, the NM4W is now giving 5 points to any new trail

leader for their first ride that they lead. These points are added together, all year long, and the member who participates a lot, gets the most points, gets a great gift certificate!!!!

One last note: You can lead a ride to an area you know, and follow a route that you know, or, you can do an Exploratory Ride. This means you can make your ride an adventure, by going into an area that you do not know exactly where you are going or when you might get back. All who sign up will know this, so they will join you in exploring a new area. GPS, maps, and a compass are helpful, but not necessary on this type of ride. The trail leader can "Get Lost" sometimes. Turning around is expected.

This is an overview of trail leading. Try it. I think I have covered all there is to trail leading, but ask me or other past trail leaders, if you have any other questions. Many long time members are there to assist you. We want your trail leading to be successful. This is how we get more trail leaders. We have a common goal as members of the New Mexico 4 Wheelers, and that is to go 4x4ing with others who enjoy this wonderful sport. We are blessed with many dirt roads and trails in New Mexico. Let's get out there and explore them together.

**From the Office of the Director of Environmental Affairs  
By Frank Whiston**

Politics... This subject is in everyone's face right now with the election coming up next month. All of the television ads, political phone calls, people who post their opinion on facebook, etc. There are a lot of issues to consider as a voting American, some more important than others. The importance of issues to individuals is bound to vary greatly, even within the NM4W membership. I bring this up, not to impose my opinions on you, but to ask that you think about how your decisions at the polls could affect the future of 4-Wheeling. Being a member of NM4W tells me that 4-Wheeling obviously has some level of importance to you. Who we put in Congress are the people who put Travel Management into law back in 2005. Who we put in the White House are the ones responsible for implementing that law. All of this has had a cumulative effect on the pastime of 4-Wheeling, our common bond. I ask that each of you take a look at the candidates and think about where they stand in terms of access to public lands. What groups are endorsing candidates? It will not take much research to find out where they stand. All I ask is that you consider this issue as part of your decision when you head to the polls.

*"Thinking isn't agreeing or disagreeing. That's voting." [Robert Frost](#)*

## NM4W Officers

<b>President</b> Dixon Patrick 271-9133 <a href="mailto:Pres@nm4w.org">Pres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Vice-President</b> Mark Wolf 856-8539 <a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Secretary</b> Lauri Rector 891-8517 <a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a>
<b>Treasurer</b> Jason Lavy 710-4928 <a href="mailto:treas@nm4w.org">treas@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Program Chairman</b> Tracy Bakewell 250-3876 <a href="mailto:prog@nm4w.org">prog@nm4w.org</a>	<b>Historian</b> Glenn Vialpando 331-1820 <a href="mailto:history@nm4w.org">history@nm4w.org</a>
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Web Site Administrator <a href="mailto:webadmin@nm4w.org">webadmin@nm4w.org</a>		





# Trail Tales



November 1, 2012

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2012

by Lauri Rector



The October meeting was back at the Heights Church. Keith & Linda Jurey were our sponsors.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm

**GUESTS:** Robert Vascon & Son – Ford Explorer and Carol Bevel – Toyota (she didn't introduce herself).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cody Bakewell, Tracy Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Pat & Sue Brady, Jeff Boggs, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, Keith & Linda Jurey, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Frank R. Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf,

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** I began by reading the September Meeting Minutes and a motion was immediately made and seconded. There was much discussion, but no vote, as was kindly pointed out by several. Verbal vote was not clear, so there had to be a show of hands (Thank you to Pat Brady, he showed both of his hands).

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** No show, no email, therefore no idea of what amount the club has in the bank. There was several guesses from those present. (I do know that he did buy a new Jeep this week??? This could cause a large number of people to volunteer for this office next year).

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mark Wolf:** There were no fines.

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:** Frank could not be present for the meeting but he did submit the follow brief summary of where things stand with the SFNF: NMOHVA has contacted a law firm to perform an assessment of NMOHVA's potential legal challenge. They have agreed to provide an assessment of the strength of our challenge based on our appeals and comments provide a range of likely costs of the legal action, and a rough schedule of such a challenge. It is anticipated that the assessment will be returned by late next week. The lawyer charge is \$250/hour. NMOHVA will use this information on how to proceed. The law firm who is performing the assessment is NMOHVA's preferred choice as they have a lot of experience in these type of legal challenges. If it turns out to be way too expensive, there is an option to solicit our case with another firm who takes on cases pro-bono for non-profits such as NMOHVA. Either way, NMOHVA needs all members and member organizations (NM4W) to help raise funds to support them.

# KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!!

## KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!!

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs:

### PAST EVENTS:

**Oct 6<sup>th</sup> – Mt. Taylor – Mark Wolf:** About 17 people showed up. There was a 5k run in progress and there was no one around really, just a few people in the road. A County Sherriff Lutinent came up to Cody Bakewell and tried to get him to get off the road. Bob Provance was behind Cody and got caught up in it. They did finally see the runners near the top of the peak.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**October 13<sup>th</sup> -Tank Trap & Blow Hole – Dixon Patrick and Mark Wolf:** These trails will be closed soon, getting one last run in before they close

**November 10<sup>th</sup> - Gordy's Hill – Jeff Boggs & Don Roy:** More details at the 11/8/12 meeting.

**November 17<sup>th</sup> - Food Drive – Frank Whiston:** Load your rig with food to donate. Be sure to go to the event on the web-site calendar to read about foods to donate. Meet at the Winrock Center and be ready to leave from there no later than 3:30pm. The group will caravan over to the ABQ uptown to drop-off at the KOAB live broadcast. All are invited to go Jason Deli's afterward for dinner (you pay, of course).

**Maybe the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November - Monzano's - Cliff Meier:** – will post details on the web-site

**Mid May – Moab – Cliff Meier:** More details to follow. Keep an eye out on the web site.

*Please be sure to check out the calendar on the web site  
– it is continually updated and added to and will have all  
of the contact information you need!!!*

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** New shirts are in and he now has all sizes, but not all colors. He has sweatshirts and license plates too.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Viaondo:** Not present. Dixon explained that he keeps up with old photos and club records.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** The club's membership application was enhanced to add a question "where did you learn about us?" So we are now able to gather that data. It also will show if someone recommended them, so now people can rightly be awarded their point for the referral. He discussed the google calendar and the information that will be on the calendar and that you can access it from your phone.

**EDITOR'S REPORT –Phil Rodacy:** Was not present. No discussion.

**OLD BUSINESS:** No old business discussed.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Carol Bevel has enough points, but did not identify herself as a guest at the beginning of the meeting. But, she got voted in as a member anyway. Welcome Carol!! And, when our treasurer remembers to attend the club meeting next month, you can Pay-Your-Dues.

Hosts for upcoming meetings at the church:

November: Bakewell's

January: Meier's

February: Wolf's

Dixon said we can fill in the rest of the months at the next meeting.

Also, we need a place for the December Christmas Party. Dixon volunteered his house and will decide on a date and post it on the web. (I hope he had Zelda's approval to do this!!!)

Donation to the church for use of the room 6 times a year. It was discussed as to how much has been given in past years. Motion made for \$300 donation, motion was seconded, no discussion. Vote successfully passed.

It was suggested and discussed that the clubs winnings from the 50/50 raffle be given to NMOHVA. Motion was brought to the floor that we donate the club's winning forever, an amendment to the motion was made to limit this to just the rest of a fiscal year. Fiscal year amendment motion was 1<sup>st</sup> voted successfully and then the original motion was discussed. Tracy Bakewell wanted a discussion to understand what other sources of income the club has. Which the only other source, besides the 50/50 raffle is club member dues. Then there was discussion on what expenses we have and should the club really give away a source of income. It was brought up by several that it will only be for the remainder of the fiscal year and others pointed out it can be voted to be stopped it any time. Motion successfully passed.

**Another item that was mentioned is that NMOHVA has a tax filing status that would allow your United Way donation to be directed to them. So, I would like to add to the meeting minutes, if I may; as you complete your United Way forms for 2013 to have your donation deducted from your pay check, please be sure that you reconsider where your funds are going to be directed for the 2013 year. As well, this will only be for the next year. We will all have a choice to change it again for 2014.**

Thanks to Keith & Linday Jurey for the tasty snacks and drinks they provided for all of us.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** I don't know. I didn't type in a time. About 8pm or so???

**50/50 Raffle Winners:** \$68.00 – Jeff Boggs (he bought about 55 tickets) and he said he will be donating it back to NMOHVA

**New Trail Leaders will earn 5 points on their 1<sup>st</sup> trail lead this year**



**President's Report  
By Dixon Patrick**

The Meeting location is back at the Church for winter, we have Host volunteers till January but we need I believe 3-4 more to make it to summer. Zelda and I will Host the Christmas Meeting; see the web site for details. Our last meeting was lightly attended and I would guess some of us were at Balloon Fiesta, I guess they have a better fireworks show. The Santa Fe Forest Travel Management plan for Santa Fe Forest is now in effect. Who knows for sure which roads are open or closed, we need a map. Given the FS maps do not exist yet I am not sure how they can enforce the new plan. Remember, many of the closed roads will not have a pole gate to indicate they are closed and we are now responsible to "know" what is open and what is closed. As of this report, we have not heard back from NMOHVA yet, but plan on fighting this best we can. Frank will have a special presentation at 5:30pm, prior to the 8 Nov meeting. Details will follow but we need to take action or sign up for a car show.

17 Nov, is Roadrunner Food Bank collection, Frank will head this again so start collecting food items. It is such a blessing to be able to give and not be in need.

I see we have an incentive for new trail leaders, 5 points for first timers. If you're looking to be a leader, ask around and find an active trail leader to co-lead the trail and you get the points. It will reduce the stress of that first ride. OK I got a challenge for the active trail leaders; find a new leader to support.

I am still looking to hear from you on topics with 4 wheeling you would like to know more about. OK, see you on the trail.



## Director of Environmental Affairs By Frank Whiston

I have been thinking about why motorized recreation is under attack and why things seem so bad right here in New Mexico right now. Every summer, I take a trip to our neighboring state of Colorado to go 4-wheeling and see a clear difference in involvement from the off-road community there. Granted, Colorado has a much larger population base and therefore, more 4x4 clubs, but I see Adopt a Trail signs along the trails up there. Local clubs have partnered with the land agency to maintain sustainable access to those routes. The same thing should be happening in New Mexico, but it is not. I find it more troubling when I reference the NM4W by-laws. The following statement is made in Article II, the club purpose statement:

*“Assisting various government agencies in the development of off-highway trails and areas.”*

According to the club’s by-laws, we as an organization are supposed to be doing these kind of things. I would love to hear any ideas that club members may have in this area. In order for this kind of thing to be successful, it will require participation from the membership in the form of a team effort.



## Roadrunner Food Drive By Jennifer Chapin

As everyone knows, this will be the fifth year that the club will be participating in the Roadrunner Food Drive on Saturday, November 17 at 4:00. There are more details on the website. Jennifer prepared posters (shown on the next page) and posted them at work. She’s gotten quite a few donations already. Anybody else want to follow her lead? (Phil Rodacy)



# Help Fill my Hummer with food for the Road Runner Food Bank!



## 5th Annual NM4W Holiday Food Drive

It is that time again to start up our annual food drive. This will be the club's 5<sup>th</sup> year doing this and it has become a tradition. We will be collecting food donations at club functions leading up to the drop-off day, Saturday November 17 during the KOB TV Live broadcast at ABQ Uptown.

We invite you to load up your 4x4 with food donations to drop off during this live broadcast. It is a great experience in kicking off the Holiday Season by giving. If you cannot or don't wish to participate in the drop-off, I encourage everybody to bring food donations to any club function prior to the 17<sup>th</sup>. As was done last year, an extra ticket will be given for the club's 50/50 raffle to anyone who brings a food or monetary donation to the September, October, and November club meetings. 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, 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**



## **Caja del Rio – Blow Hole Run**

**By Mark Wolf**

On Saturday, October 13, 2012 four vehicles joined Joan and I for a run to see the “blow hole” one last time before it is closed by the Santa Fe National Forest as part of the FINAL Travel Management Plan for that area. The “blow hole” is a natural lava tube blow out that is perched upon a hill and is some 200’ deep (by estimates only) and approximately 20’ in diameter.

I had talked to Dixon about wanting to go on this trail during the Mt. Taylor run and he noted there wasn’t much time. I thought about it and decided to run it parallel to his run on the Tank Trap trail which is near this trail. I hurriedly suggested that I would lead the trail at the same time as his run to Tank Trap. He wasn’t too keen on the idea as he wanted to see this phenomenon as well, but like he said time is running out. So I called him to ask him to post it on the website for me as my modem had died and I wouldn’t get another for several days. He did it for me and noted the run was considered a “1” and was easy. Well,



after several years of NON-USE it was a little more than easy, but not really that hard. The worst part was that I had run the trail with Lauri Rector several years ago and never got to do the whole trail as we had a guest break down and I went to help them. So I was left with Glenn Bontly’s GPS coordinates to find my way. If you have never done this before, it isn’t easy. I had no idea how to load them into the GPS, so Joan read them out as we went along.

Well, the points listed were not exactly the same as we were reading as we traveled into the woods and we had to guess more than once. But, believe it or not we only made two wrong turns! It was kind of a mystery and fun all at the same time.

We all met at the same location as the Tank Trap people and followed each other to the new “park” with clean bathrooms on FR 24 where we separated to air down and group up. I left first and unfortunately drove right by the turn. A quick U-turn (with all of the Tank trap people watching...AND commenting!) and we found the proper turn to take. It went smoothly from there for a while, but another wrong turn at the pond was easily rectified and we got on the right trail. As we traversed the trail we turned into the gulch and many trees were downed. Several times we had to get out and move them off the trail to continue on our route. We kept going and eventually “topped out” on the mountain. We kept

interpreting the coordinates and luckily made the correct turns. I stopped at a spot that looked like something should be there and Travis and I went exploring. After a short hike down the hill we found what we were looking for! I was really happy! I yelled up to the others that we had found the Blow Hole and walked back up to enjoy lunch. Everyone except Mark, who didn't feel good at the time, made their way down to look at the natural phenomenon and then back to our vehicles.



I heard from Jennifer Jacobs several times that it is no “easy” (or number 1) trail like the website said! However, she is getting to be a veteran driver and her skills as a four wheeler are getting more refined these days. She did great and NEVER got stuck once. In fact, Travis Bakewell brought out his 99 Jeep WJ for the first time with the New Mexico 4 Wheelers and had little to no trouble. His Dad (Tracy) came along as well and we all had a good time. Mark Mullin was also there and his 05 Rubicon had no trouble whatsoever. I took along my Comanche and it did excellent.

We left the blow hole after taking pictures to prove we were there and made our way back to FR 24 and eventually back to the air down spot. However, one of our stops was due to seeing a large tarantula making its way across the road. We had to stop and check it out and take some pictures of it. It was cool! After airing up our tires we all said goodbye and headed back to Albuquerque/Rio Rancho/Los Lunas as was necessary. It was a beautiful day weather wise and we had a good group of people tagging along. Thanks to all who came along and to those who missed it sorry. It may be awhile before we can go back to that spot.



The “blow hole” is a natural phenomenon and protecting it by a barrier to keep people back is a better way to preserve it in my opinion. I guess we need to work with the USFS to volunteer to install barriers and let this be the “mitigation” to allow us to continue to use this trail. It is a really cool spot to enjoy and the trail is pretty fun for stock vehicles. It is not really that hard, but it works the vehicle and that makes it an experience.



## **Mt. Taylor Fall Colors Run**

**By Mark Wolf**

On Saturday, September 29, 2012 eighteen...YES!! Eighteen vehicles joined us for an easy run into the mountains to see some fall colors. It turned out to be a great trip though! We all met (well, most of us anyway) at the Route 66 Casino parking lot and made our way to Grants. Along the way we picked up visitors Bill & Laurie Reed and member Jennifer Jacobs with her friend Thomas. It was a beautiful day for touring the high country and grabbing some pictures of the beautiful fall colors. No issues developed on our way to Grants and when we got there we all stopped for a pit stop and refueled if needed. I gave everybody a time frame and everyone followed along as I had requested.

We made our way to the end of pavement on NM route 547 and pulled over to air down our tires. The run would be easy, but the wood cutter, hunters, and pinion nut gatherers



probably had the road fairly well wash boarded. After about 30 minutes we loaded up and headed north towards FR 239 and onto FR 453. This took about 15 minutes to reach the turn off and when I did I noticed a sign that said something about a 5K run ahead. Ok, but as long as it doesn't bother us we'll just go on. About the time I was heading into the woods I heard someone tell me that Tracy Bakewell had broken down and was returning home. Too bad. That is the second time I have led a run and Tracy was broken at the start. What is this?! Anyway we kept moving and pretty soon I was at the bottom of the hill looking up towards La Mosca peak. I stopped to let everyone catch up as I had noticed a gathering of people along the way that must have been involved in the 5K run. They were off to the side of the road and nothing was blocked that I could see, so I just kept going as I was traveling about 25 MPH and never saw any runners. However, it didn't take long to find out that Cody Bakewell had a run-in with an off-duty Sheriff's officer (who was evidently working with the 5K people) over traveling through the area. Evidently, Cody and the officer did not see eye-to-eye. Right after Cody left the officer (the officer thought he was traveling too fast, but I think it was more like the officer thought the road was supposed to be closed and didn't know what to think with all of these "Jeep" type vehicles traveling through there. However, no signage of ANY type had closed the road.) That was not the bad part! Poor Bob Provance comes along as the Tail Gunner and walks right into an officer that was already upset over dealing with previous drivers and feeling like the situation is out-of-hand. Bob kind of felt like he was set-up. Sorry, Bob it was purely

coincidental and surely not intentional. Thanks for dealing with the officer in your professional manner.

Once we all caught up, we traveled a little farther down the road, but then ran into the runners along the side of the road. Supporters were parked where we had intended to park to take some awesome pictures, so we went on up to the top of the peak and stopped there for a while to take pictures. After about 45 minutes we traveled a little farther and then stopped for lunch. This spot overlooked American Canyon and provided some great photo opportunities. We relaxed in the warm sunshine, talked among ourselves, ate lunch, and some even took walks. It was an easy hour. We then got back in the vehicles and headed on down the trail.



We went stayed on FR451 and eventually made our way back to FR 239 and down to the air down spot. Some got out to fill their tires, but I had one more trail in mind and caught a few who decided to go with us. We traveled on a loop road which was FR 193. It had colors for the first part of trail, but it dropped down in elevation and got away from the deciduous trees. This route took about an

hour and a half and we made our way back to NM 547. I turned left and found a wide spot in the road for airing tires up. I caught everyone who went with us and guided them into the spot to air up. After that exercise we headed towards Grants.

A few of us had decided to go to the Pizza Hut in Grants and have some pizza. The others went on back towards the Albuquerque area. We said goodbye to them. Our pizza was pretty good (or maybe we were just hungry?). After about an hour being there we all said good bye and headed back towards the Albuquerque area ourselves. Except for Tracy Bakewell, NO ONE broke down, had a flat tire, or anything else. That is a perfect run! Thanks to all who came along, especially the guests...Butch and Jeannie Stroud (TJ), Carol Bevel (NOW a member!) and her friend Ross Erwin (Toyota Taco), Ben Dackiewicz (TJ), Bill & Laurie Reed (CJ7), and Dan Linden (H3 Hummer). I believe that everyone had a good time. Until next year...see you on the trail!



## **Tank Trap Trip Report**

**By Dixon Patrick**

Tank Trap,.... Man what can you say; this has been my favorite trail for a long time and the one I built my rig to navigate. I have run the trail more times than I can count without major issues, but never say never. As many have experienced, the best planning and prep will only get you so far.

On Saturday 13 Oct, Cody Bakewell, Jack Dickey, Leon Duggar, Eric Lyke, Dainel Montano and myself ran it for possibly the last time. As of this writing it is to be closed by Santa Fe National Forest on 20 Oct 2012. At our drivers meeting I asked everyone to run it backwards and then return on the trail as normal, it will be a longer day but what a way to end it. We knew the recent rains would make it wetter than normal but that would add to the fun. In short it did add to the fun and it was a longer day, but not in the way you would think.

We hit the entry of the trail with standing water in areas I have never seen water. The rains had eroded the rock to a point that they had to be sticking up another 2-6 inches. Navigating the "ponds" with the tops of rocks peeking above water line looking like alligators ready to eat a tire, and not really knowing how deep they were made for some interesting moments. I know my forward



motion was halted several times to an unknown and unseen obstacle. The natural erosion had uprooted some bushes to be replanted downstream.

The trail is within the canyon but it was hard sometimes to determine the typical line to take. Cody was expertly pushing his mild lift and 33s, XJ Zombie Patrol, through every obstacle. He did have a few moments but I think we all had a few. Did I mention the water? If you know how water makes rocks slick, well the mud added to it and we had a slimy wet field of the best wheeling ever. Well about 2 hours into the run we were about 10 minutes from the "Tank", and a radio call simply stated "I got a problem" then long silence. We regrouped to find Eric and his nicely built LJ with a broken pitman arm. Well out came the tools and it was removed in minutes. O yea now we need a replacement, remember being prepared? Well we cannot carry every part that could break but if we all take a few parts odds are good someone will have what we need. Parts check in our jeeps, no joy, calls to every parts counter in Santa Fe for a stock pitman arm, no joy, calls to Abq, for a stock or one with a 4" drop we found ONE. A few calls later, Zelda Patrick was graciously available to pick up the part and met me at Santa Fe Airport. We then made the run back to the trail, made the repair and we were all out by 5pm.



A few closing thoughts. When we go on the trail assume you may have to spend the night because you or another has broken down. That means you need extra food, water, clothing and a light. Also whoever is left at the break down location is not left alone, in our case Leon with a running vehicle stayed with Eric and his family. Also whoever runs

for help or parts needs to have someone with them. In our case, Jack and one of the riders stayed with me on the parts run. Last if at all possible communication of progress to all parties will reduce stress of the unknown. We were motivated to get out prior to dark, and for us being in a canyon, we hit the dusk just as we were driving out at the obstacle at the tank. The tank is a tricky one in the daylight, and.....,well till next time, happy trails.



## NM4W Officers

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# Trail Tales



December 1, 2012

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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

## Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2012  
by Lauri Rector



The November meeting was at the Heights Church. Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell were our sponsors.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Mark Wolf, our Vice President. Our President was playing hooky or something.

**GUESTS:** Chris Westbrook - '97 Jeep, Bruce Ford – Toyota, Dave Denny - Ford F350

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Jennifer Chapin, Robert Hohlfield (welcome to an Associate Member), Keith & Linda Jurey, Bob & Carol Provance, Thomas & Jenni Lavigne, Jason Lavy, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Don Roy, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Lauri Rector:** It took a while for someone to make a motion to suspense with the reading of the minutes, but Jason Lavy put us all out of our misery and made a motion. Everyone seconded it, and it successfully passed. Mark Wolf explained to the guests that the minutes are posted in the monthly Newsletter and can be read there.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Jason Lavy:** \$2,374.09. This weekend, checks for the Clubs dues to Southwest 4-Wheel Drive Association, United 4-Wheel Drive Association, Blue Ribbon Coalition and New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicles Association will be sent. Mark wanted to let everyone know that the Club still collects cans for recycling. Mark took some in this past week and got about \$20. If you recycle cans, give them to Mark (pre-flattened would be preferred).

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Mark Wolf:** Mark explained the point system for the benefit of the guests. To be eligible to be voted in as member, you must earn 5 points. Members and prospective members can earn points by attending meetings and club runs and events. At the end of the club's fiscal year, the gives awards of cold hard cash for the most points and most trails lead. And, after those names are taken out, there is a raffle for a 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for the club; each member will be issued a ticket for every point earned through the year – the more points, the more tickets.

**KEEP UP THE FIGHT!!! KEEP TRAILS OPEN**

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Frank Whiston:** The Forest Service's Region 3 office has REJECTED NM4W and NMOHVA's appeal of the Santa Fe National Forest Travel Management Decision. Though disappointing, this was not unexpected. The agency rejected the appeals from all twenty-one appellants. NMOHVA is now considering our options to challenge the decision in court. Legal challenges are expensive and are only used when absolutely necessary. You can support NMOHVA's efforts by contributing to NMOHVA's Access Defense Fund.

**Help ensure that the Santa Fe National Forest stays open for everyone.**

The time limit to comment on the Rio Puerco was also discussed.

BLM's Socorro field office communications was discussed. They are interested in getting our help with trail maintenance, signage and such. We want to do all we can to assist them. This is a good OHV area for many types of users.

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

**TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs:**

**PAST EVENTS:**

**October 13<sup>th</sup> -Tank Trap & Blow Hole – Dixon Patrick and Mark Wolf:** Tank Trap was done backwards and led by Dixon. There was an article on this in the November Newsletter (since Dixons wasn't at the meeting to really expound about this run). Mark led the Blow Hole trail. He had to find it by using GPS coordinates, which he has never done before. He managed to find it with only a few wrong turns.

**Maybe the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November - Monzano's - Cliff Meier:** – Cliff wasn't here so Robert Holhfield talked about it. Not a lot of views, but nice day to be out. They had private land on one side of the trail and BLM land on the other side. Private land side had the most people watching. Quite a few people came out to their fence to watch them go by.

**BE A TRAIL LEADER**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**November 11 – Cimarron Mesa – Frank Whiston:** Exploratory run to see if there is any more trails that can be established out in this area. Some trails are already there, but on the extreme side. He's hoping to find some easier trails. Details will be on the web site.

**Food Drive – Frank Whiston:** Load your rig with food to donate. Be sure to go to the event on the web-site calendar to read about foods to donate. Channel 4 will have a food drive at the Uptown

area. Meet at the Winrock Center and be ready to leave from there no later than 4:30pm. The group will caravan over to the ABQ uptown to drop-off at the KOAB live broadcast. All are invited to go Jason Deli's afterward for dinner (you must treat yourself, Frank isn't going to pay and neither is the club).

**November 10<sup>th</sup> - Gordy's Hill – Jeff Boggs & Don Roy:** I don't think anything was discussed on this trail at the meeting. But, it is still on the calendar, so I'm going to leave it in the minutes.

**December 1<sup>st</sup> – T or C Area – Jack Dickey:** A local will be leading this for Jack. Trail is on the harder side. See web-site for details on what your rig needs and where to meet.

**February (3<sup>rd</sup> week or so) - Chile Challenge:** Southwest 4-Wheel Drive Winter Quarterly meeting. The event is hosted by the Las Cruces 4-Wheel Drive Club. Attended by people from all over the country to meet and wheel with for 4 days. Check out the SW4WDA web site or the LC4WDC web site to get on-line registration form and details, they should be available very soon.

**Mid May – Moab – Cliff Meier:** There were no changes from last month (Cliff was not here to discuss this trail). More details to follow. Keep an eye out on the web site.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR ON THE WEB SITE – IT IS CONTINUALLY UPDATED AND PROVIDES ALL OF THE INFORMATION YOU NEED!!!**

## **New Trail Leaders will earn 5 points on their 1<sup>st</sup> trail lead this year**

**PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Tracy Bakewell:** Tracy explained the 50/50 raffle to the guests. He reminded everyone that the club's part of the 50/50 raffle will be donated each month to NMOHVA for the remainder of the club's fiscal year. He brought T-Shirt, Sweatshirts, and other things. He does have a lot of NM4W business cards – grab some to pass out – they are free. Mark wanted to know the cost of the 4 color logo on a shirt. It was pointed out by several, that to get the quote, Tracy only needed to know the # of the colors, so he will get right on that and should have more info at the December meeting..

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Glenn Viapondo:** No Report.

**WEB-MEISTER'S REPORT (officially the web-master) – Don Roy:** He reminded us that we are running out of space on Picasa. He is working on a way to migrate the '07 to '08 stuff on Picasa to the web site, which has unlimited space. Mark explained that club photos are posted to Picasa.

**EDITOR'S REPORT –Phil Rodacy:** No Report

**OLD BUSINESS:** This wasn't discussed, but someone as already asked about it, so I'm keeping it in the Old Business Section for this month.

Hosts for upcoming meetings at the church:

November: Bakewell's

January: Meier's

February: Wolf's

Dixon said last month we can fill in the rest of the months at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Frank asked about a donation to the Roadrunner Food Bank. This is something the club has always done. It was voted successfully that we give the same amount as last year. I would add that amount here, if I would have made a note of it. After sleeping at least one time, I think \$100 was agreed to, but it could have been \$200. I think we're close enough for government work.

Someone asked about the Christmas Tree Run. Mark gave a short explanation of what it was about. Jennifer Chapin volunteered to lead this run. I don't think a date was set. Keep an eye out on the web site.

Linda Jurey asked if anything was planned for the Christmas Party. Mark informed the club that the Patrick's volunteered to open their home to the club and to host the meeting. Mark asked if the club wanted to donate the meat for the Party this year. It was discussed as to what type of meat and where to buy it. Bob Provance will pick some at Whole Hog. Next there was a discussion on the amount. \$100 was suggested and then everyone agreed that \$150 would be better. Motion was successfully passed.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT:** 7:55 pm (good job by Mark, he did not get on his wagon and go on and on!!! Good thing, I voted in Rio Rancho on Tuesday and was very tired and a little short tempered).

Thanks to Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell for bringing snacks and drinks for us

**50/50 Raffle Winners:** \$45 to Jeff Boggs (and he turned around and donated it to NMOHVA)

Shirt to Jeff Boggs (he did buy a pile of tickets again this month)

Plate to Jeff Rector

Hat to Jason Lavy

(Jason and Jeff then traded their prizes – boys will be boys)

**New Trail Leaders will earn 5 points on their 1<sup>st</sup> trail lead this year**



## President's Report

By Dixon Patrick

I hope everyone has recovered from the Thanksgiving meal and the resulting lunches the following week. It's been a busy month, with Cimarron Mesa, How to comment on Land Use, and the Road Runner Food Drive.

Coming up is the annual Christmas party and meeting, I look forward to all of you attending. As in the past years, the meal will be a pot luck with the club supplying the meat and soft drinks so sign up on the web so we know how much to buy. We will have a gift exchange (your option to participate); \$15 and it can be useful or fun. If it is gender specific please mark the outside. We will do the select a gift and open then have a time of swap a gift with others, so you never know what you will go home with. Remember our meetings are as much social as they are clerical, so find someone you may not know and trade stories.

Several of us have been working on adding another element to our meetings, which would be to learn something new. We have had a "How to take pictures", "a CB 101" and "How to comment on Land Use". Soon will have one on "Geocaching" (see <http://www.geocaching.com>). This would add another element to our rides if we go in search of a "treasure" or leave one behind. Last year Cliff wrote: *"Here's an idea, what about a geocaching 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"*. So, this is not a new idea, but I plan on presenting this in January, so check out the geocaching web site to see the basics of how it works. I know we also have other plans for learning events in the works, and I ask you to let me know if you would like to lead one of these or have a topic for one.

I have to give big thumbs up to the club for the attendance at the Road Runner Food Drive. Frank lead the event, but it takes the rest of us to step-up and give to the community. I know we left an impression on the event with our 5th year attending and 12 colorful vehicles.

Club web site, Don Roy has been tuning up different areas to make it easier and more intuitive. The Picasa photo albums have been reworked, (not a light hearted task), and I believe the Event Folders now tell a story of the ride. Please check it out and experiment with adding pictures. Note: we want to keep each event in a single folder, so add to an existing event folder if it is there, also you can now change the order of pictures, so you can put yours in the location relative to location/time to the others. If anyone is still having problems with the new website, contact Don Roy.

I see we have an incentive for new trail leaders, 5 points for first timers. If you're looking to be a leader, ask around and find an active trail leader to co-lead the trail and you get the points. It will reduce the stress of that first ride.



## **Director of Environmental Affairs** **By Frank Whiston**

So, why did I take on the role of DEA for the club? This is the most depressing officer role that there is with motorized recreation access constantly under attack. What would keep a person going when bringing all of the doom and gloom to each of the meetings? A couple of things... Serving at this capacity I have learned much more about the processes that our land managers must go through and how we as a community can be effective in influencing decisions. It is not easy, but there is satisfaction in calling out the crap that is going on. The second thing that keeps me going are those of you who participate in discussions and show willingness to act on issues brought forward. The occasional thank you helps a lot as well. I really appreciate all of you who showed up to the comment training that I held before the November meeting. It sure would be easy to look at what's going on and just give up. The more members that become involved with land use issues, the better. Together we can do more. Don't give up on me and I won't give up on you!



## **Picasa Photo System Changes** **By Don Roy**

### **Picasa Photo System Changes**

#### **The Problem**

Since 2007, NM4W has used Picasa as an on-line photo repository, which grew to 2.7GB and nearly 4500 photos in about 80 Albums. Unfortunately, Google recently changed the rules for using Picasa and now charges monthly for storage space used above 1GB. This presented a problem, either pay Google monthly, or find another way.

#### **The Solution**

It turns out that the hosting company we now use for this NM4W.ORG web site, which we already pay for, comes with unlimited storage space. The decision was made by our officers to migrate most of the Picasa photos 'Albums' to the NM4W site as 'Galleries'. This migration is now complete. All photos on Picasa between 2007 and a few months ago have been moved to be site Galleries. All that remains on Picasa today is Sept 2012 to date, which is well under the Google 1GB limit. Every few months more photos will be migrated, such that only the past few months are on Picasa, to give everyone time to upload their photos from an event.

All the Picasa Albums were designated for Members Only viewing, due to possible 'location compromising' photos someone may post. A site gallery can be marked for Members or Public viewing. At present all the migrated photos are on 'Members Only' galleries. At the discretion of the Historian, some Galleries can be marked Public (like the recent Food Drive gallery).

## Benefits

This change has a big benefit, besides no increased cost to the club. It gives the club Historian the opportunity, during the periodic migration process, to clean up the photo libraries, combine same event albums from different people, eliminate duplicate photos, and assemble a nice historical package of the events. Unlike a Picasa Album, a site Gallery can also have an unlimited size text introduction describing the event, possibly borrowing text from subsequent Trail Tails write up for an event.

## Business As Usual

With this change, it is still 'business as usual' for the general membership in adding photos. Picasa is still the way members add new photo Albums to share, just as it has always been. This will be an ongoing process. Members will add photos from an event to Picasa, and a few weeks/months later the photos are packaged and migrated to the NM4W site as a Gallery.

The NM4W site has for quite a while now, been displaying Picasa photo Albums as soon as they are posted. Visually, a Picasa Album and a local NM4W Gallery appear identical to the viewer on NM4W. So, members can use the Gallery function on the NM4W site to view all photos of the club, no matter where they may exist.

If you have any questions on this change, please contact Frank G. Whiston, or Don Roy.



## Monzano Run By Cliff Meier

This report on the November 4<sup>th</sup> Monzano run is a month late and a bit short but here goes anyway. Nine vehicles met at the Sandia Ranger station bright and early. We had 6 members and 3 guests. Jennifer even had a fellow Hummer owner with us! We also had 2 members on the local Toyota 4X4 club join us.

This goal of the run was to explore the northern area of the few roads that is on the Mountainair Ranger District's recommended Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) that is yet to be published by the Forest Service for the Mountainair Ranger District and end up with a run up to Capilla Peak. Unfortunately the last 4 miles of the Calilla Peak FR 245 is still closed from the fire. The road has been repaired but the campground at the top is still being repaired. If one was skeptical, you could think the FS is using this as an excuse to keep the road closed! After all, it's only been 3 years or more since the fire! This area is not used by many others than the local residents. It is bordered on the northeast by the Chilili Land Grant and to the north and west at the top of the mountains by the Isleta Reservation, neither of which is known for being friendly to outsiders! See the picture of the Isleta sign. There was a well travel road on the reservation side of the fence that indicated the border was patrolled regularly.







We left from the ranger station and started down NM Hwy 337 to just east of village of Tajique and turned on the county road CR 321 which became FR 321. This is a loop road that goes to the top of the mountains and runs along the Isleta border/fence. There are numerous side roads off the main road but only one FR 312D1/D3 is on the recommended MVUM. As the road winds to the top it crosses several large flat meadows which are identified as for dispersed camping on the MVUM. At the top we took a side road that

continued north along the fence and ended at the border of the Chilili Land Grant. There was no mistake we were at the end! There was a tight fence with large boulders across the road. The road actually continues down into the village of Chilili. At that point we turned around and backtracked to the top where we stopped for lunch. As we finished lunch a pickup went by in the reservation side of the fence and waved us a “one” finger salute as they passed! Remember this if you spend any money at their casino!!

After lunch we proceed on FR312 to FR55. The last 2-3 miles of FR321 is also designated for dispersed camping as is the junction area of FR321/55. FR55 is known are the road to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Campground and Albuquerque Trailhead. Both really pretty hiking areas. The trail out the back of the campground is known for its oak trees and colorful fall foliage. FR55 is loop that starts west of Tajique and comes out just south of the village of Torreon. On this trail it is not uncommon to see wild turkeys and deer. (When I pre-ran the run earlier in the week I saw 2 large flocks of turkeys.) Several of us caught a glimpse of several turkeys this time. All along the road were scrub oaks, most of their leaves were on the ground but were still bright red. We came back to Hwy 337 at about 3:00pm and decided we had enough for the day and would leave more exploring



for the next run. I think a good time was had by all with no problems or fineable events!



# 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday



**ESTABLISHED 1958**  
**NEW MEXICO**  
**4-WHEELERS**  
**WWW.NM4W.ORG**



The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Food Drive is now behind us and I think that it was a great success! I (*Frank Whiston*) would like to thank each of you who donated or participated. We ended up with about a dozen vehicles as we have in the past to show up to the channel 4 live broadcast at ABQ Uptown. This is a very manageable size group considering that the event was only a little bit of Mall Crawling. Mall crawling comes with a new set of challenges. Instead of navigating through dirt, rocks and trees we were faced with cubs, a ton of cars, shoppers, news anchors, set lights and cameras which we could not use for traction the way we might with objects on the trail. The broadcasting crew seemed much more organized this year and the drop-off went very smooth and more quickly in years past (I think that they are getting used to us being a part of this). As the vehicles emptied the food donations, most of us migrated over to Jason's Deli for dinner. All in attendance had a good time and enjoyed the relaxed setting and good conversation. Check out the club website for photos of the event. I'll say it again; the experience of starting off the holiday season by participating in this food drive was very heartwarming. It really helps set the mood for Thanksgiving and Christmas and is a good reminder for all that is taken for granted. I feel that we are going to need to change our meeting place for next year. Winrock Center seems to be beginning to come back to life with new restaurants and a Target store popping up, this year indicated that it will be the last time to rendezvous in the location that we have become accustomed to. We will worry about that when next year's event comes closer.

## NM4W Officers

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