

wheeler Curtis Smith led the group on a local run. Curtis said the BLM is agreeable to laying new trails so Curtis is looking at the Engel area.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 9, 7 p.m. – Meeting at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Adult Ed room, 8600 Academy NE.

January 11 – Sagebrush Flat – Mark Wolf. This should be an easy run. Snow adds some challenge. First-timers and beginners welcome!

January ??? – Cabezon – Jeff Boggs. Visit interesting ghost towns and ruins.

Other 2014 EVENTS (see website for details):

May 1-3 – Hole in the Rock UT – Keith Jurey. Participants will camp on the trail for two nights. This is a somewhat difficult trail (lockers needed), but its very historic and scenic. Spare gasoline recommended.

May 8-15 – Moab & Green River UT – Cliff & Jeanne Meier. Run Moab for 3 days, then Green River for 3-5 days, depending on interest. Moab RV parks fill up fast, but you can reserve now.

July 10-12 – Salida CO – Jennifer Chapin and Jennifer Jacobs. Make camping or lodging reservations soon. Chalk Creek Campground, Nathrop CO, and other sites fill up early. Jennifer J will arrange for a \$100 deposit by 2/1/14 to the caterer for the dinner meal. Online registration begins 3/1/14. This gathering will serve as the SWFWDA Summer Quarterly Meeting.

July 27-Aug. 2 – All-4-Fun, Silverton, CO. Hosted by Mile-Hi Jeep Club.

Sept. 6-7 – Mt. Blanca – Keith Jurey will lead this annual trip.

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge. This will be the SWFWDA Fall Quarterly Meeting, if applicable.

**LEAD A RUN -
THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL**

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Leon Duggar: Leon was sick. No fines were assessed. Thank you, Santa.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey volunteered to fill this position. Thank you Jack!!! Jack encouraged members to look at the recently-released Magdalena Ranger District Travel Management Plan (comments due 12/23/2013). The goal is to

steer the Ranger District into accepting the alternative most favorable to the motorized vehicle community. Jack is trying to digest the plan and figure out which roads are poised to be eliminated.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin: The club's 50% of recent 50/50 raffles was \$142.50. Jennifer presented the cash to Frank G. Whiston for deposit to NMOHVA. If interested in purchasing a club sweatshirt, check the website.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston: Contact Frank if any problems uploading photos.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy: Don tinkered with the membership section that is available to officers.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy: Since trip reports dwindle in the winter months, articles or links of general interest are welcome.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **2014 Summer Quarterly.** See Upcoming Events.
- **Rio Puerco (end of Southern Blvd, Rio Rancho).** Frank G. Whiston researched the State Land Office map and, for the most part, the land is private. Therefore, NM4W does not set up club runs in that area.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Palomas Gap.** Joanne Spivack said that rock slides have blocked the road near the top of the Gap. Jack Dickey will research clean-up alternatives. If appropriate, Cliff will compose a letter to the County requesting they clear the trail.
- **NMOHVA calendars.** Frank offered for sale the 2014 NMOHVA (New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance) calendar. All profits go to NMOHVA.
- **SWFWDA.** Jeanne Meier said that NM4W has more officers than necessary for SWFWDA and she will resign as Membership Secretary if anyone else wants the position. The next teleconference will be in the late January timeframe. Send comments to President David Teague

Everyone thanked Dixon and Zelda for hosting the meeting/party. The food was excellent and the gift exchange was fun.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:42 pm.

Raffle Winner: There was no 50/50 raffle tonight but everyone was given a raffle ticket for donated merchandise. Vicki Medlin won a NMOHVA calendar and a 25% off gift certificate for Clayton Off Road Mfg.

Hosts for Winter meetings

- January – Jeanne & Cliff Meier
- February – Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell
- March – Leon & Marcia Duggar
- April – Phil & Ilene Rodacy

*Check out the web site —
it is continually updated and has all of the
information you need!*



**President's Report
By Cliff Meier**

2013 has gone and 2014 is upon us! 2014 should be a great year with many 4X4 events already planned, such as the club trips to the Hole in the Rock and Moab/Green River in May, the SWFWDA Summer Quarterly in Nathrop, CO during July and the Chile Challenge in Oct. Check the club calendar on the website for details. These events plus the normal club events which have not been scheduled yet, will make 2014 a busy year!

Check the website for Jack Dickey's comments on the Magdalena Travel Management Plan Environmental Assessment. The club needs to continue commenting on the Forest Service and BLM's plans if we want any say in what areas that remain open for our sport. Everyone should be involved, contact Jack if you want to help.

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

That's about all for now. See everyone at January meeting on the 9thth.

**LEAD A RUN
ANY WHERE, ANY TIME**



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Jack Dickey

Saturday, December 14th I attended a workshop for the environmental assessment (EA) for travel management on the Cibola National Forest, Magdalena Ranger District. This was the last of three workshops to solicit comments from the public on the EA. It was lightly attended by seven people whose interests included four-wheeling, trials motorcycling, ranching, and outdoor recreation. The forest service staff gave a short informative presentation on the EA then made themselves available for questions on the four proposed alternatives. The EA directly impacts what roads and trails the forest supervisor will select to be available for public use when the motorized vehicle use map (MVUM) is published.

The list of issues in the EA included "Loss or reduction of motorized recreation opportunities." as a concern. However, proposed actions presented in various alternatives of the EA are strongly biased toward reducing roads open for motor vehicle use. Three of the four alternative actions decrease the miles of road available for public use by 25% to 36%. One of the alternatives allows for a 3% increase in roads open for motor vehicle use at the expense of no addition of unauthorized routes being designated for motor vehicle use, no 600 foot-dispersed camping corridors, and no motorized big game retrieval off of the designated road system.

I drafted a letter with input from Cliff Meier and Frank G. Whiston presenting NM4W's comments and concerns about the EA. A major concern is no baseline data was presented in the EA to support the assertion that resource damage is occurring due motorized recreation uses and therefore the number of roads needs to be reduced. Another concern was that FR505A in Jordan Canyon was omitted from the EA. Numerous other roads under the proposed action would be changed to "Restricted to Administrative Use Only". We objected to the omission of baseline data, omission of the Jordan Canyon Road, and the status of the other roads being changed. These roads provide "motorized trail opportunities for users desiring more challenges" i.e. adventure driving and/or rock-crawling.

The forest supervisor has 45 days from the December 23rd comment deadline to respond to our comments. There is one more 30-day objection period before the record of decision is final.

The scoping period for another EA for the decommissioning of roads in the Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts is currently open. I am reviewing the maps and will provide an update next month.

The Las Cruces District Office has prepared a Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze and update the BLM's management of public lands in Sierra, Otero, and Doña Ana Counties. The RMP will start the process for travel management on public lands managed by BLM in these three counties. Although the comment period for the draft RMP/EIS closed on November 4th; there should be more opportunities for input particularly when the travel management planning process starts.

I have contacted Congressman Steve Pearce's natural resources staff member, Kenny Rogers. He is aware of the Tri-County RMP/EIS and the Magdalena EA and will be watching what happens with both of these projects. Pearce's district covers the southern areas where we like to go four-wheeling.

Lastly, there has been a lot of talk on the on-line forums about "closure" of the Rio Puerco area. Apparently, someone representing the private land owner (Recorp Partners Inc.) is handing out trespass notices and reportedly Sandoval County Sheriff officers are asking people to leave. At the risk of being repetitive, there are no public lands in the Rio Puerco area where off-road activities take place. A large majority of the land is privately owned and two to three sections consist of State Trust land. State Trust land is like private land; it cannot be legally accessed or used without permission. Just because there are few, if any, no trespassing signs, that does not make it OK to enter. Cliff has indicated the club will not sponsor trips out to the Rio Puerco.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC



The Wrong Trail at the Wrong Time **By Don Roy**

With the endless talk of "To Rio Puerco, or Not To Rio Puerco", I thought I'd tell you a true story about one bad day of east coast wheeling. I started my wheeling life with a stock Jeep in '97, the Jeep I still have today. My Jeep was built enough by '99, when this story unfolded, that I was involved in this adventure first hand.

My old NY club was the Hudson Valley 4 Wheelers, based in Poughkeepsie, NY, a city of about 30,000 people. The area is mostly rural once you got 8-10 miles from city center. Like NM4W, HV4W only used legal trails. Unlike NM4W, HV4W was only formed in 1995, so we had little experience as a club at the time.

In the northeast, there is no National Forest land or BLM land to wheel, zero. The only two classes of trails are either long abandoned official 'roads' still on some town map, or on private with the land owner's permission. Fortunately there were quite a few land owners who loved Jeeping and let us have a trail or two on their 100 acres, so private land wheeling was not uncommon.

Our club president at the time, Clancy (yes, his real name), lived 20 miles out of town and announced at a meeting that he had a new place to wheel near his home. Since he was the president and we appreciated not having to drive 60 miles to a usual trailhead, we jumped at it. We assumed it was another "owner said it's ok to use his land" thing. Nope. We all got the trailhead on a Saturday morning, excited for a new adventure. We find the 'trail' is actually a power line access road. Its questionable legality combined with being a bit close to an adjacent two lane state highway gave us cause for pause. Boss man Clancy said, "It will be fine, I've been here lots of times. No problem!". So the parade of 10 or so lemmings started out.

It was indeed a really nice trail, what NM4W would call moderate, great for a relatively new wheeler with a built up truck. After 30 minutes or so of crawling over ledges and boulders, the trail started getting a bit closer to the highway. As luck would have it, we got to the closest point to the highway at exactly the time a NY State Trooper came by.

He immediately flipped on his lights and pulled over, maybe 100' from we were at the time. Out of his cruiser he yelled, "This is all private land and I know the Power Company and land owner do not allow any vehicles here." Six or so of us walked over to talk to him, me watching while president Clancy and other veterans did the negotiating. The Trooper was livid, said were nuts to even think it was OK, and ordered us to get off the trail immediately, then he would decide what to do legally.

We could not immediately exit via the 100' to the road since there was a guard rail all along that section of highway. The easiest exit was for all of us to turn around. We all managed a U-turn easily, except for Bill, who was in the middle of climbing the current obstacle. As Bill tried to back down, his '84 CJ7 fell on its side, nervousness with the situation clearly a major contributor.

The Trooper now went nearly unprofessionally nuts, but managed to keep it together. "Now we have to get a tow truck in there somehow! You guys are idiots!" We assured him this was no problem. The winches on Martin's CJ7 and Dan's CJ5 managed to get Bill upright and off the obstacle in a couple minutes, which sort of impressed and defused the Trooper. After Bill was clear, we all easily got back to pavement to talk to the Trooper.

Not 100% sure what to do, the Trooper knew the local Town Judge lived only a mile down the road. (I know what you're thinking, why would the club president take us on an illegal trail a mile from the town judge's house? Good question.) Since we outnumbered him, the Trooper earlier had called another Trooper who showed up just in time to hang out with most of us and the rigs while Trooper 1 drove a couple of our club officers to see the judge at home.

Apparently the judge was in a hurry to leave to play golf, so he just told our guys we were idiots, then told the Trooper to make sure we left the area, no charges or tickets. That's the only time I ever appreciated golf.

What happened after that? Club elections were in a few weeks. Bill became new president. Old president Clancy left the club, sold his Jeep (a rat trap), and bought an H1 Hummer. The HV4W club, from that day until now, has yet to have an event on any questionable land or trail.

	<p>Time Travel Through Monticello Canyon December 7, 2013 Article and Photos by Jack Dickey</p>
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I have often thought that our modern automobiles are time machines much like the DeLorean in the movie *Back to the Future*. Compared to foot travel or horseback, automobiles allow us to accelerate life and experience more.

On Saturday, December 7, seven intrepid adventurers set out from Truth or Consequences in their machines to experience time travel through Monticello Canyon: Jack and Cathy Dickey in their pick-up, Bill and Chris Dressler in their Jeep, Jennifer Chapin in her Hummer, and Cliff and Jeanne Meier in their Jeep.

As we headed north toward Highway 142, we passed the T or C airport. In front of the airport is a WWII fighter jet on a pedestal; our first indication that we were going back in time. As we traversed the high mesas of Sierra County west of I-25 there were low clouds, fog, and mist, giving the surroundings a mystical feel. Once we dropped off the mesa into La Cañada Alamosa we soon found ourselves passing through old farming villages of Placita and Monticello (Cañada Alamosa). There was a Christmas crafts fair at the plaza in Monticello. One might wonder if a trading party of Warm Springs Apaches from the old reservation at Ojo Caliente might stop by.

A sign from the present briefly brought us back to reality:



After a short stop to get rid of some coffee, we were back in our time machines watching time slip backward. The heavy rains last summer and high water in the main wash had eroded the banks and threatened to wash out the road. There were several areas where the bottoms of side arroyos hung 8 to ten feet above the bottom of the main wash.

As we traveled up stream and back in time we wondered about the old farmers; did their dreams come true or were they broken by the hard life?



We soon found ourselves playing in the water crossings like the ducks, Great Blue Heron, and numerous deer we saw along the way.





There were many indicators that the warm water in the steam was taking us back farther back to simpler times:





The Warm Springs Apaches lived in this area during the summer, hunting and gathering food and farming a little. The natural warm spring a few miles upstream, known as “Ojo Caliente” was their summer headquarters and holy place. We were now in May of 1871 when the U. S. Army moved the Warm Springs Apache from this traditional home land. Were we in a bad spot? Would we find ourselves in an ambush lead by Victorio or Geronimo himself or caught in cross-fire from the Army?



No turning back, we're in the "Box"...



Once through the "Box" we found ourselves at around April 1874 at the old Warm Springs Apache reservation and the Buffalo Soldier Post at Ojo Caliente. The Warm Springs Apache had been allowed to return to the area. In early 1877 Geronimo and some renegades hid out nearby. The Army set a trap. Geronimo was lured and captured at the Post on April 21st. Once again, the Warm Springs Apache and Victorio were removed from the area and taken to San Carlos. In September 1877, Victorio and his people were again allowed to return. The eventual refusal of the reservation at this side has been blamed for the "Victorio War" in which many soldiers and settlers in the area were killed. By late 1886, most of the Apaches who had fought for their lands were taken as prisoners of war and moved to Oklahoma. Infants were left to be raised by the farmers in the area as their own children. A few Apaches inter-married.



A few of us departed our time machines and took a short hike up to the warm spring.



Unfortunately, time travel has its limitations. We soon found ourselves back to the 21st Century. We wanted to visit the site of the army post, but high water flows had cut a drop off across the two-track road to the site. We made our way to Highway 52 and traveled east toward Winston and Chloride. We briefly went back in time upon arriving in Chloride. After lunch at the café in the re-build bank building, we visited the museum at the restored store, and bought a few gifts in the restored dance hall/saloon. We will take another time travel trip and share the history of Chloride and mining in the area.



Jeep Back Seat Modification

By Frank Whiston

All the way up to 2006, Jeeps have had small, low-back bench seats for the rear passengers. Now that my daughter, Kimberly, is nine I notice how much she is filling that seat and how it offers no head of shoulder support to even her. I have seen on web forums where folks had added headrests from other vehicles to the existing back seat and thought that I might like to do the same at some point. I began searching craigslist and eBay, hoping that I might find some suitable headrests at a reasonable price to add to the back seat. Everything that I saw was either a whole seat and too expensive or a headrest meant for front seats that contain DVD player screens in the back of them. Eventually, I stumbled across an ad for a JK back seat on one of the web forums that I frequent. Hmm, could be interesting but I don't know if it is for a 2 door or a 4 door. The 4 door is not desirable since it sits in front of the wheel wells and is meant for 3 passengers. Also the headrests fold instead of remove, so they would be much harder to add to my existing seat.

I contacted the seller and it turns out that it is the more desirable 2 door seat and he even lives close by. I decided to go and check it out. The seller was enlisted Air Force and

had a roommate that moved away and left this seat behind. He had no use for it and just wanted it gone. I picked the seat up for a price that I felt was ok even if I only took the headrests and didn't use anything else.

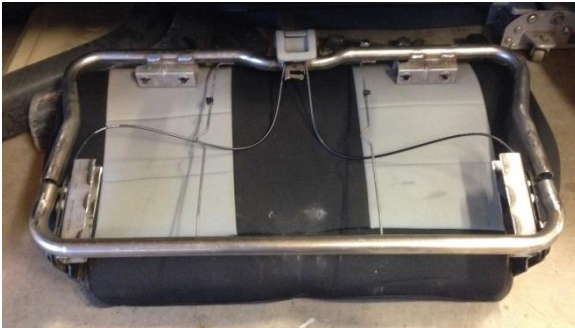
I got the seat home and started to do some measuring. My first thought was that maybe I could modify this seat to fit in the back of my Jeep. The floor hooks appeared to be the same width, but the seat frame would have to be narrowed near the hinges to fit between the wheel wells. JKs are 5 inches wider than TJs. With closer inspection of the way that the JK seat is constructed, I determined that there is way too much structure in that seat to narrow it where it would need to be slimmed to fit the TJ.

I began to disassemble the seat to extract the headrests. I got the seat back all the way down to its frame and removed the headrests and their plastic sockets. Then, I held the headrest against my existing back seat noticing that it would still be awful low. After comparing the JK seat back to my TJ one, I found that the JK is about 4 inches taller. I could narrow the JK seat back frame to fit my TJ seat bottom cushion.

The first step was to remove the mounting brackets from each side of the frame by grinding down the 6 welds used to secure it.



Then I mounted the brackets to the hinges of my TJ seat, they bolted right up! Next I laid the JK frame on top of the TJ seat to see how much it would need to be narrowed.



While doing so, I also hooked up the cable mechanism for the fold and tumble. With a slight modification, this also works with the TJ hinges.

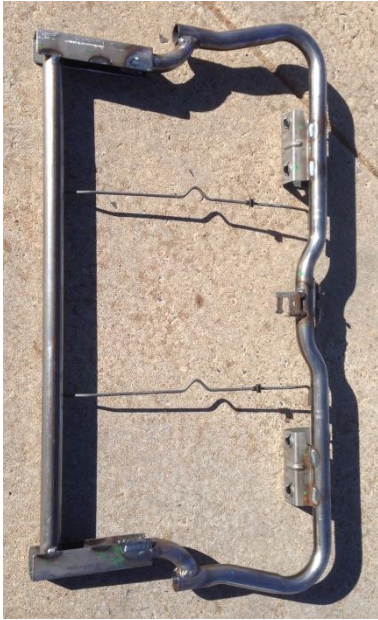


With the seat frame all trimmed, it was time to tack weld it all together. Note the fiberglass blanket in the previous picture. This was spread out over the seat cushion so that none of the welding splatter would burn any holes in it. Tacking the frame while mounted to the hinges ensures that everything will bolt together properly.

The next step was to put the frame back in the seat back cushion and determine where the foam would need to be trimmed to accommodate the TJ hinge locations.



Everything was bolted together to ensure proper function. After that, the frame was fully welded.



I was really pleased for the fact that this modification was completed using only the materials from the JK seat. Once the welds cooled, I assembled the seat and installed it in the Jeep. Fits my 9 Year-old pretty well 😊

shipped from their Denver warehouse and arrived the next day. I couldn't buy it any cheaper anywhere else and 3% of the purchase price will go to NM4W.



Now for the expensive part, ordering a seat cover to match the others in the Jeep. I ran down to 4Wheel Parts and used my Club Rewards card. The seat cover would be

This came out great and if I ever want to revert back to stock, I can since I did not do any modification to my original seat. In order to fold-and-tumble, the headrests must be removed and the front seats slid forward until complete. However, in the 9 years having this Jeep, I have never folded the seat and left it in the Jeep. This minor inconvenience will most likely never be realized. Being that I am tall, rear visibility was hardly diminished at all. The limiting factor is really the spare tire anyway.

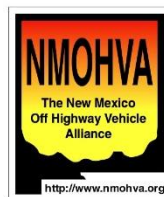


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Trail Tales



February 1, 2014

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2013
by Joan Wolf



The meeting was held on January 9 at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church's Adult Ed room. President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

GUESTS: Steve Andreson ('05 Rubicon), Bill Beenau, Ronnie Caton ('97 Cherokee), Alan Dooley ('14 Wrangler), Cory Downing ('08 Rubicon), Bill & Chris Dressler ('13 Wrangler), Duffy Fray ('13 Wrangler), Robert Gill, NaDeen Jackson ('05 Wrangler), Frenchie & Karen LaChance ('09 JK), Paul & Michelle Lucero ('14 JK), Karen Morant ('95 Cherokee), Karen Savage, Diego Serna ('87 YJ), Andy Townes, Charles Townsen, Matthew Wheeler (TJ).

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Boggs, Richard Brooks, Devin Cannady, Jennifer Chapin, Guy Conway, Craig Courtright, Leon Duggar, Jason Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Daniel Montano, Dixon Patrick, Dan Pritchard, Bob & Carol Provance, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy, Frank G. Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf: Motion carried to dispense with reading of minutes. They're available on the club website.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick: Dixon reported a balance of \$1,512.91.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs. If you're not sure what's involved in setting up a run, ask Jeff (or any officer) for guidance.

PAST EVENTS—No events since the December meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 11 – Sagebrush Flat – Mark Wolf. Easy run. Visitors welcome.

January 17 – GenRight Off Road National 4WD night at Uptown Sports Bar, Albuquerque. Contact member Mark Berglund for details.

January 26 (Sunday) – Cabezon – Jeff Boggs. Members-only. Will cancel if muddy so watch website.

February 13, 7 pm – Meeting at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Adult Ed room, 8600 Academy NE.

February 14-16 – Palomas Gap – Mark Wolf. Contact Wolfie for details. Near Truth or Consequences. Some will camp Friday and Saturday nights.

March 13, 7 pm – Meeting at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

March 15, 9 am – NMOHVA (New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance) Meeting and Trail Run – Frank G. Whiston. Everyone is welcome to the annual meeting. Agenda will include accomplishments, goals, and elections. This is the 10th Anniversary of NMOHVA and trail rides will follow the meeting. Contact Frank if interested.

April 10, 7 pm – Meeting at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

April 12 – Manzano Mountains – Cliff Meier. Easy run to the southern part of the Manzanos.

Check the club website for other 2014 Events:

May 1-3 – Hole in the Rock UT

May 8-15 – Moab & Green River UT

July 10-12 – Salida CO

July 27-Aug. 2 – All-4-Fun, Silverton, CO

Sept. 6-7 – Mt. Blanca CO

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge, Las Cruces

First-time Trip Leaders Earn 5 points

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar: Leon explained that guests need five points for membership eligibility. This gives everyone a chance to see if the club is a good fit. Participation pays off. A \$100 gift certificate is awarded annually to the person with the most points. No fines this month—but the mercy won't go on forever.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey reported in via email.

- Comments on behalf of NM4W were submitted on the proposed Road Decommissioning Project on the Sandia and Magdalena Ranger Districts. A response from the Cibola National Forest Supervisor regarding our comments on the Magdalena Travel Management Plan (TMP) Environmental Assessment (EA) is expected in mid-February.
- Rio Puerco—Hearsay is that the Sandoval County Sheriff's office is making contact with people at the staging/air-down area but no citations yet. The area is mostly private property and rumor is that once the owner gets the area posted, then citations will be issued. Talk is that a desalination plant may be built there.
- Cedro Peak—Phil Rodacy heard that a Ranger said they plan to close the area due to lack of funding for road maintenance. Frank said we must hold agencies to follow the correct process. They must abide by preparing EA's before taking action to close roads that are in the TMP.

Jack encourages members to contact him with questions/concerns or if they hear of any agency actions. The more sets of eyes and ears, the better. Cliff commended Jack for jumping right in to the position and suggesting strong actions.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin: Club patches, shirts, etc. were available. Jennifer's computer was down so she'll report the sweatshirt order status next month.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston: Frank migrated many photos from Picasa to the club website. This opened up Picasa space; it now has photos from the last six months.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy: In response to a request for immediate notification of new runs, Don will look into this. In the meantime, check the club website frequently.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy: Phil asked if a newsletter index would be useful. One could see what trip reports have been written, etc. Discussion will continue at the next meeting. Cliff complimented Phil and contributors for the excellent January 2014 newsletter. Great articles on the Monticello Canyon run and a Jeep backseat modification.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **2014 Summer Quarterly.** Jennifer Chapin noted that payments will soon have to be made (\$200 deposit for the caterer and a t-shirt deposit). No vote is required.
- **4x4 101 class.** Bob Provance has prepared guidance for the newsletter on the subjects of Equipment Preparedness and Trail Etiquette. There may be future weekend seminars on topics such as winching. The purpose is to help new and seasoned four-wheelers learn how and where to use their vehicles and equipment.
- **NMOHVA calendars.** Frank still has 2014 NMOHVA calendars for sale. Profits go to the Access Defense fund. NMOHVA advocates for motorized access to public lands.
- **Tank Trap trail.** Don will meet with the Santa Fe National Forest's Espanola Ranger District on January 14 to discuss getting special approval for access. Since Tank Trap is not on the Travel Management Plan, Don will request that NM4W be allowed to periodically run the trail after giving notice to the Ranger District. The runs would be restricted to NM4W members only.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **4WD Hardware Promo Program.** Frank reported that in 2013 members spent \$2,447.48 and NM4W will get a \$73.42 rebate. See article in the February 2014 newsletter on how to opt in.
- **New Members.** Bill Beenau and Matthew Wheeler were voted in as new, full members. Welcome!

Everyone thanked Jeanne Meier for the delicious homemade cookies, brownies, and other good goodies.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:50 pm.

Raffle Winner: Craig Courtright donated his \$48 winnings in the 50/50 raffle to NMOHVA. Thank you, Craig.

Hosts for Winter meetings

February – Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell

March – Leon & Marcia Duggar

April – Phil & Ilene Rodacy

*Check out the web site —
it is continually updated and has all of the
information you need!*



President's Report **By Cliff Meier**

Another month has gone by and it's time to do another write up! Time sure flies! Speaking of time flying, it will be spring and then summer before we know it. With all the events coming up, make sure you make your plans and reservations as needed. Check the website calendar for the events.

The club's name is known outside of Albuquerque and New Mexico. I have received several e-mails in the past from four wheelers from outside New Mexico wanting to know where to wheel here. One was several months' ago from two guys from the east coast that were coming here for a wedding and were bringing two built vehicles. They were looking for some place with hard and extreme trails. I got them in touch with Don Walker in Farmington, one of our associate members. They spent a day with Don in the Glades. Don reported they all had a great time! I received another request today from the Rocky Mountain 4X4 Club in Colorado Springs. They are coming to Santa Fe in September and are looking for easy to moderate scenic trails and hard to extreme trails. I referred them to the Cliff Hangers in Farmington for the hard ones and told them to contact me when the time gets closer. Maybe we can set a run with them in the Jemez.

While I'm on the topic of runs, the Cabezon run Jeff led last Sunday was really great! We went north of Cabezon and saw some awesome views down into the Rio Puerco Valley. There are a lot more old roads that need exploring, so we will visit the area again. You don't want to miss it. Check the website Picasa photo album for pictures.

That's about all for now. See everyone at February meeting on the 13thth.

**LEAD A RUN -
THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL**



Vice President's Soap Box **By Leon Dugger**

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs By Jack Dickey

U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall have introduced legislation that calls for designating about 780 square miles near Las Cruces as the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. The monument could either be established by this legislation or by the President through use of the Antiquities Act. This proposed national monument includes several areas with back roads and 4wd trails that have been used for Chile Challenge and many other times for four-wheeling and rock-crawling: Dona Ana Mountains, Robledo Mountains, Broad Canyon and areas west and south of the current Prehistoric Trackways National Monument.

Based on information from the website <http://www.organmountains.org> there is wide public, local government, organization and business support for this proposal. Additionally, the web-site indicates, "Protecting the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks as a National Monument will keep attracting visitors, tourists, new residents and businesses. Recent research found that National Monuments added millions of dollars to the economies of communities close to them, and added hundreds of new jobs in addition to increasing per capita income." Unfortunately, the website includes the following under its "Threats" section:

"OFF ROAD VEHICLE ABUSE"

Off Road Vehicle Abuse continues to be the number one threat to public lands in the West, according to recent research. Irresponsible ORV use leads to fragmentation of sensitive lands, incursion of non-native species, degradation of wildlife habitat, property damage caused by cut fences, and a nuisance to other non motorized visitors. With the tremendous growth of Doña Ana and El Paso Counties, we have also seen a proliferation of illegal off road vehicle abuse in some of the regions proposed for protection in the Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument. Irresponsible ORV use leaves scars that can take generations to heal."



The general public cannot discern the difference between irresponsible/illegal four-wheeling and responsible four-wheeling. The radical environmental groups capitalize on propaganda to further the misconception that all four-wheeling is bad. The future use of back roads and 4wd trails by responsible four-wheelers in the Las Cruces area is in jeopardy. Hopefully, when the actual management planning for the monument takes place, current responsible use of the back roads and 4wd trails will be considered as legitimate recreational activity. As ambassadors of responsible four-wheeling, we have our work cut out for us.

There is documented precedence for four-wheeling in the area. The following is from the BLM Trackways Monument webpage:

"There are opportunities for hiking, horseback riding, and off highway vehicle driving in portions of the monument. However, viewing trackways is limited; as they are discovered, and to preserve them for ongoing and future scientific study, the trackways are removed and transported to the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science."

Also, the following is from the Las Cruces BLM recreation webpage:

“The Robledo Mountains Off-Highway Vehicle Trail System is a network of trails, including both extreme OHV and mountain bike trails, in the southern Robledo Mountains. The trails are dominated by enormous rocks, making the terrain extraordinarily challenging for riders. The extreme OHV trails require specialized vehicles, with locking differentials, winches, and expert drivers. Vehicle damage is not uncommon on these very difficult OHV trails.”



I urge each of you to contact U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall and remind them of the fact that responsible four-wheeling has been happening on these lands for a long time.

<http://www.heinrich.senate.gov/contact/write-martin>

<http://www.tomudall.senate.gov/?p=contact>

Also, please contact U.S. Representative Steve Pearce and ask him to fight for our right of responsible four-wheeling on public lands. Representative Pearce appears to be willing to fight for the public's right to use public lands.

<https://pearce.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

Additionally, here is a link to contact President Obama:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>

Please ask the President to protect the rights of responsible four-wheeling recreationists when designating the area as a national monument.

Stay thirsty my friends...for our right to responsible four-wheeling on public lands!

**Keep PUBLIC lands open
to the PUBLIC**

4WD Hardware Rewards Program

By Frank Whiston



At the January club meeting the 2013 totals from the 4WD Hardware Club Rewards Program were announced. As of December 31st, we had 16 members who had opted to participate in the program. Cumulatively, those members spent \$2,447.48 with 4WD Hardware in 2013. The club's 3% rebate totals \$73.42 and can be used for anything NM4W decides to use it for. Participating members get up to 20% off on parts from 4WD Hardware and 4-Wheel Parts stores. Full details on the program are available in this [website article](#).

Since participating in this promotional offer requires sharing your name, address, email, and phone number with 4WD Hardware, each member must opt-in to the program. We do this to protect the privacy of members who would rather not share that information. Since this is a manual process, I wanted to share step-by-step instructions on how to sign up via the club website.

1. Using a computer, not a mobile device, go to <http://nm4w.org> and log in using your user name and password.
2. Click on Profile as shown below:



3. Scroll Down to the Personal Information section as shown below:

Personal Information

First Name	<input type="text" value="Joe"/>	Mobile Phone	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text" value="Member"/>	Email	<input type="text" value="JoeMember@nm4w.org"/>
Allow Promos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Check to ALLOW your Name/Addr/E-Mail to be included in Club Approved Promotional Programs.)	
<input type="button" value="Update Personal Information"/>			

4. Select the "Allow Promos" checkbox and then click on the "Update Personal Information" button.

Once this has been accomplished, the Promotional Program Chair will send your information to the company. You will be assigned an account number and they will mail a membership card to your mailing address. In order to receive the discounts and for the club to receive a rebate based on your purchases, orders must be placed over the phone or in a store.

Given that only 16 NM4W members had only participated in this program for 4 months of 2013, the rebate received is pretty impressive. If you ever shop with this company, consider opting-in to this

program so that the club can benefit from purchases made in the future. Questions? Contact the [Promotional Program Chair](#)



Sage Brush Flats Trail Ride

by Mark Wolf (alias Wolfie)

I wanted to rerun this trail after a three year hiatus and set it up in December. The weather was really nice and it made for a great day to be on the trail and away from the home chores. I wasn't sure on Thursday that I was going to be able to lead this run as my work schedule has been really screwy lately, but it all passed and I got to lead. Cliff and Dixon had volunteered to help out, but I spared them the task. Thanks to them for volunteering to help me out so late in the schedule. We all met up at the rest area south of Santa Fe due to the construction in Bernalillo, especially around the "park and ride" lot as you can't access it going west anymore.

We had 18 vehicles and most of them were visitors! Cliff volunteered to take the Tail gunner position and away we went. No issues were noted on the way in. I had everyone wait up at the end of the trail to ensure the gate was open leading to the beginning of the trail. It was and I called back to the next person and asked them to come on up to the trail start. It only took about 3 minutes for them to catch me and when they got there we took off.

The rains in September had washed out some dirt from the rocks leaving several of them exposed. One visitor asked if the beginning of the trail was considered as easy and I responded yes, but it was a little towards moderate. His response was "we've got a lot to learn". I'm glad no one panicked.

We meandered down to the "Flats" area, but had to stop a couple of times to let everyone catch up. With some of the vehicles, it was a chore to make it through the exposed rocks. Not really hard, but tire placement was critical to feeling good about the trail. No one likes to hear rocks hit the underside skid plates on a new vehicle. It just makes you nervous. However, everyone eventually made it to the lunch area and we all stopped for about 45 minutes to chat and eat. The weather was nice and warm.



After lunch, we headed on down the trail and Dixon asked me to hold up so he could get a photo of all the vehicles. He caught up quickly and took his photo. I haven't seen it yet, so hope it was good. We made it through the tight spot rather easily, even with a full-size, extra-cab Nissan Titan pickup! We went on up the hill and then back down. When you get near the bottom of that hill there is a



tight spot through some trees. I started into that area and quickly realized there must be a hole under one of my tires as the front diff was dragging in the dirt.

I backed up and got out to take a look. Yep! There was a washout in the right tire track and a large rock in the middle of the trail. I got over to the right and went right through. Some of the others were not having as much luck as I did.

The spot really took quite a long time to get through with all of the vehicles.

And just when we thought everyone but Cliff was through, I headed back to the truck to head up the valley. Next thing I know, Jeanne is telling me that Cliff had trouble and almost rolled over! I walked back to see him in a somewhat compromising position, but he didn't look like he was going to roll over from where I stood. He drove it out of the spot, but some of the assistance was not the safest thing to do for someone in this type of spot. It goes to show that EVERYONE needs a spotter to prevent any issues. Sorry, Cliff for this oversight.



For the rest of the trip it was ho-hum and easy to get out. We ended up back at the air-down spot by about 3:30PM and everyone aired their tires up if they had aired down. Those with compressors put them to use that day! Several people asked what accessory they should get first and most of us responded with the words "air compressor"! However, we wanted to make sure everyone got

aired up safely to make the trip home and I believe we were successful. Thanks to all who came along and especially those who helped me out with this run!

I learned that there were several visitors that need lessons on how to four wheel and I think it was good for me to understand that. Not all knew what '4-low' meant, how or why to air their tires down, and how or why to disconnect sway bars. I need to get with Bob and get that program in

gear! I want all who come to our club events to feel confident and comfortable with 4 wheeling and their vehicle. Jeeps are more capable off the showroom floor than ever before and many people are buying them. We need to get them on board to help us fight land closures and go out and have fun with their investment! This will have to be a "Club" effort. I'm ready to assist "newbies", are you?



Poetry In Motion

Contributed by Frank Whiston

A poem, written by 4WD/ Transamerican Wholesale Salesman "Woody" Burnett

As The Jeep Sleeps

**As I dust off two inches of fresh fallen snow
I start to wonder how far my old truck will go.
The back roads are covered and piling up quick
And you can bet even the main roads are slick.
As the wind starts to howl and I freeze off my tail
Now I just hope that my battery doesn't fail....
It cranks a little slow and finally lights
Hopefully it doesn't get any colder tonight.
When we bought our house with a two car garage
I had promised one spot would stay free.
With the theory of clean windows when the weather is bad
But after a couple years now my sweetie is mad.
With both our trucks outdoors and windows covered with ice
My wife says a garage sure would be nice.
With my Jeep in one side and parts in the other
I wish I could blame this one on my brother.
So I get up early to scrape the glass
And commence to freeze the rest of my ass.
So I pray for spring and hope the weather clears
You can be sure I will empty the garage before next year.**



2014 New Mexico Jeep Trip ????



1968 New Mexico Jeep Trip Contributed by Frank Whiston

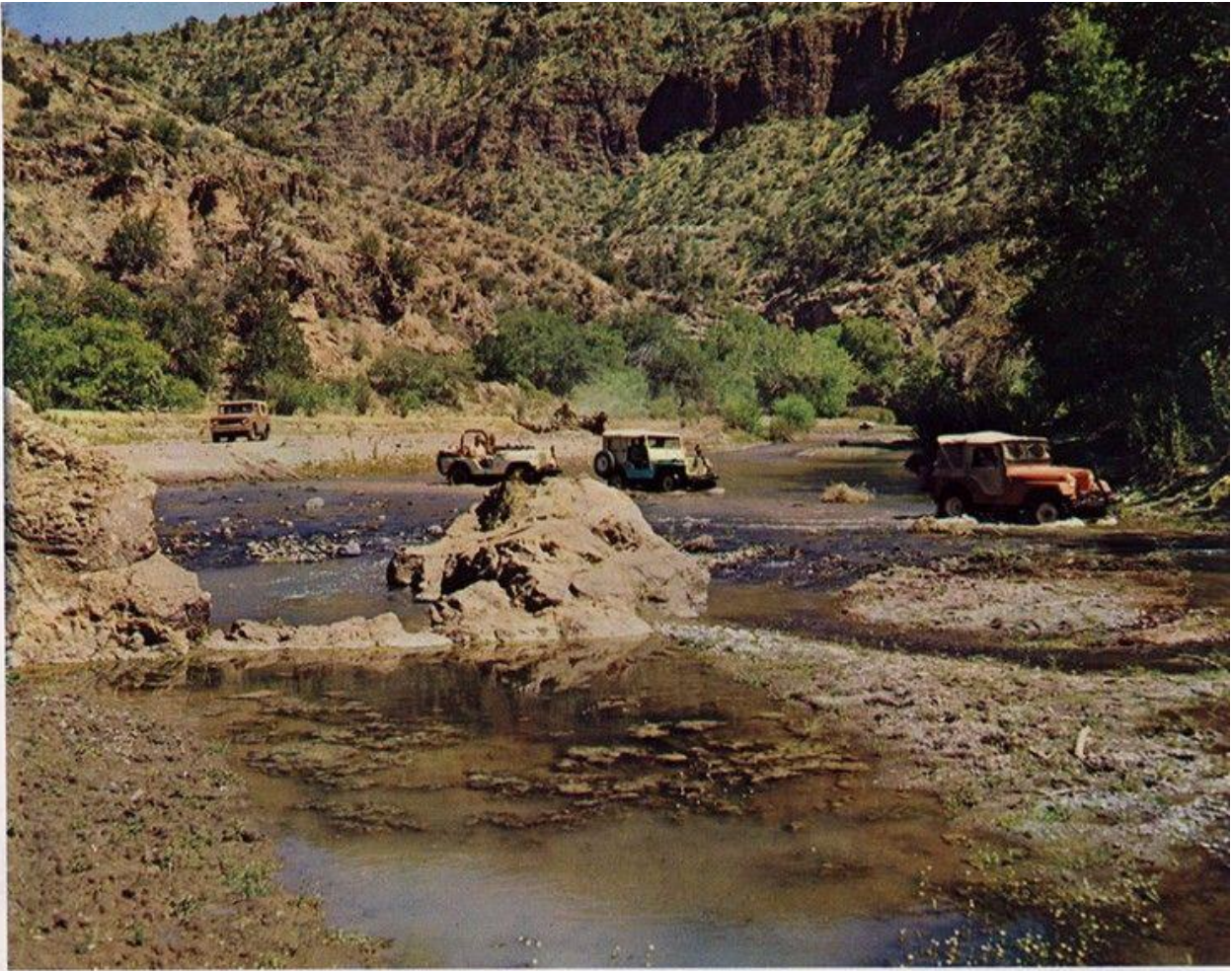
I stumbled across this 1968 New Mexico Magazine article and thought it would be neat to share in the Trail Tales.

<http://www.ewillys.com/2013/02/16/1968-new-mexico-jeep-trip/>

The May 1968 issue of New Mexico Magazine has a good story and pictures on an annual jeep trip by the Las Cruces Four Wheelers and the Las Cruces Jeep Club. Fifty-five people in 17 four wheel drive vehicles, including at least one Landrover, Scout, Bronco, Flatfender and CJ-5 (several of these), made the 32 mile trip through a portion of the San Francisco River.

The article includes a map, pictures, and tales of their exploits. As you can see from the pictures, they spent plenty of time deep in water, crossing the river back and forth. The article begins on the map page (page 2). It's a pretty large picture.

Note: The map on page 2 is hard to read here, but is much clearer if you follow the link. (ed)

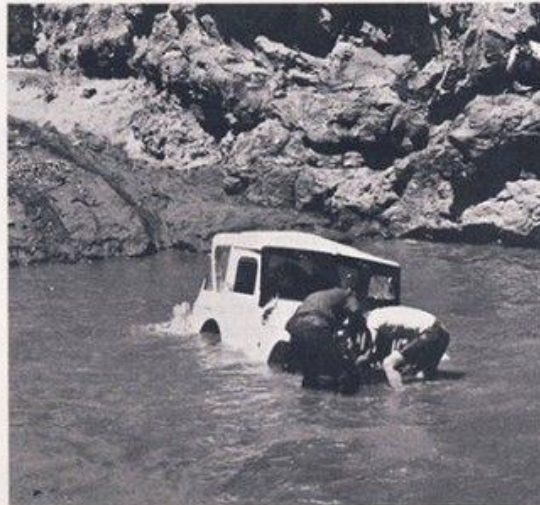


The excursion followed the channel of the San Francisco River from Catron County into Arizona. The twisting, high-walled canyon was conquered in a joint venture by the "Four-Wheelers" and Las Cruces Jeep Clubs.

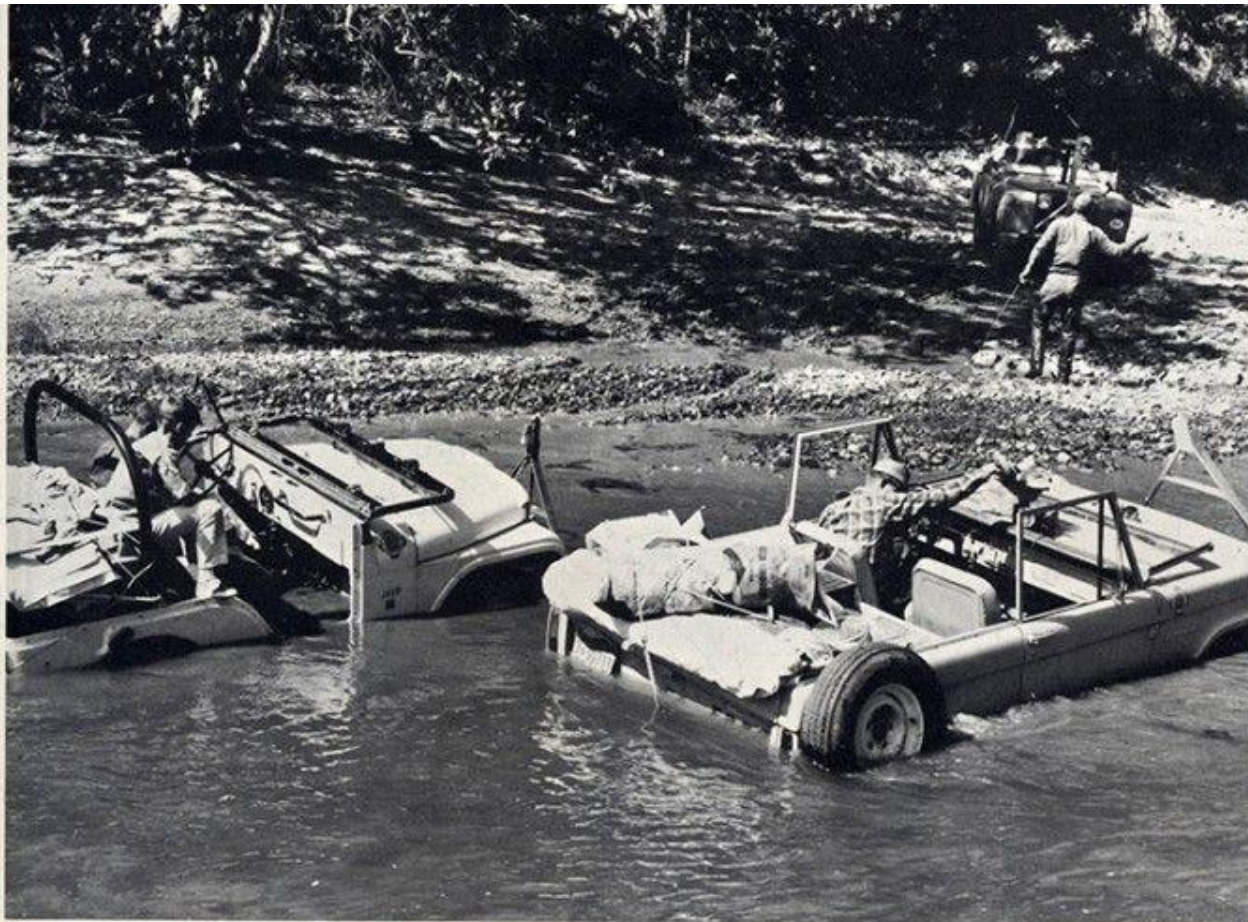
EXPLORING UNCHARTED TRAILS

BY EDWARD D. GAUGHAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY H. L. JAMES

A frequent experience on the safari.



C O N T I N U E D



Most of the vehicles had water-proofed engines. Situations like this were more fun than trouble.

Camp that first evening was near the mouth of Big Pine Canyon. We had traveled 17 miles from Frisco Hot Springs that first day.

The most serious incident of the trip occurred on the morning of the second day. Several of the group had already crossed the river with only minor difficulties. The next driver into the water tried to avoid the mud churned up by those that had gotten stuck before him. In doing so, he slipped off into a deeper hole and for a frightening moment his vehicle tried to float and then started to roll to the right into deeper water. A half dozen or so of the men standing nearby dashed into the waist-deep water, caught the Jeep and held it upright. Three winch lines were quickly attached, and the water-logged vehicle was towed to dry land. With many willing hands at the task, the vehicle was soon travel-worthy and we were on our way again.

Coursing through a narrow canyon overhung by spectacular cliffs, this section of the river glides quietly around treacherous mud bars and gurgles noisily through rock-strewn riffles as it flows past a wide variety of scenery. The verdant beauty of grassy glades randomly dotted with oak and cottonwood trees gives way occasionally to forbidding barren rocky terrain or dense growths of willows and salt cedars. The violence of floods on this stream has successfully erased any trace that man had been in this canyon before us. In a few months, all traces of our sojourn will be obliterated and the canyon will remain as it has for hundreds of years, seemingly untouched by humans.

A few miles downstream from Frisco Hot Springs we passed our last opportunity to escape from the canyon until we reached the Blue in Arizona.

For the next two days, we would depend upon one another for help in a variety of situations. We would travel and live in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation, an atmosphere that must be similar to that which allowed our forefathers to survive far from organized centers of civilization.

This trip must be classified as difficult even for a four-wheel drive vehicle, one that none but the foolhardy would attempt alone. Any problem, big or small, would be a matter of common concern until it was overcome. Punctured gas tanks would have to be mended, kinked springs straightened, balky clutch linkages repaired, flat tires changed, extra supplies of gasoline and oil shared and vehicles stuck in a variety of ways retrieved along the course of our journey.

A sense of urgency prevailed only in emergency, otherwise the trip proceeded in leisurely fashion. We all welcomed chances to stop, get out, visit a bit and enjoy the magnificent scenery.

About mid-afternoon of the second day, we came to a ranch near the mouth of the Blue River. This was the first sign of human habitation we had seen since leaving Frisco Hot Springs. Tired but jubilant, we camped on the Blue that night. We had mastered the Frisco — the challenge of herding seventeen four-wheel drive vehicles down a trackless and forbidding canyon in the serenity of scenic remoteness. ●



Cabazon Peak Trail Ride

By Jeff Boggs



13 4x4's showed up in San Ysidro, NM on January 26, 2014. The NM4W was going out to explore dirt roads out in the Cabazon Peak area. It was cold, but the weather was clear and the temps increased as the Sun got higher in the sky.

We had a quick meeting and Jeeps, Hummers and a Toyota took off on Hwy 550 to the turn off to San Luis and Cabazon Peak. This area has roads that cover mesas and canyons, generally north of Mt Taylor. We turned off onto dirt, from the paved highway that goes northwest to Torreon, NM. This is mainly BLM lands and ranch land, but we drove close to Navajo tribal areas, too.



This is known as the "School Bus Road" as there are abandoned school buses, which ranchers use for storage, we guess. Or could they be due to alien landers, lost school kids on a day trip in the country? Speculation abounded. This road had been recently graded, so it was smooth sailing for a while. We got to a really cool, abandoned adobe house, and from there, we crossed an arroyo and began to enter country that was new to this group. We worked our way up onto a north / south mesa and followed a primitive road to the southern end, where we had lunch. Fantastic views looking in all directions. The kids climbed around and the dogs had a good time, too.



Soon it was back north and off the mesa and through several gates before we went into a canyon. We stopped in a sandstone arroyo. Here we got out our shovels, picks and rakes and increased the width of a short section of road. After all, we did have two Hummers and one Toyota, and they had slightly wider wheelbases. Not wanting to have anyone fall off this narrow section, we all took turns improving this short stretch of road. Thanks to all who worked hard. We had an acceptable passage, so Cliff volunteered to try it. Tight, but the repair held up.

Hell, let's throw a Hummer at it!! Jennifer drove up and rocks moved, but she made it. We worked a few more minutes to widen on area, and several more tried.

Now this spot offered a choice of road vs. dry arroyo, with rocks, so some of us drove into the wash, while the road warriors went forward. We believed that we would connect up, but that was not possible, so once we went down the wash, we turned around and caught with the other group. We followed a faint 2-track for a while, but it disappeared, so it was turn around time. We all retraced our path and headed home.

A Great Day, no mechanicals, just a lot OF DUST!!!!

There are lots of roads out there that need to be explored. We will plan more trips out to this area. Thanks to everyone who came along. Thanks to Bob Provance and Travis Bakewell for closing all the gates and running tail gunner duties. We found 4 school busses, but there is at least one more that we did not get to. Just wait until next time!!!

See you out there! Look for many more pictures on the website.

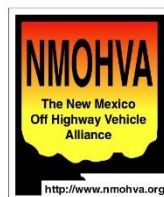


Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

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Trail Tales



march 1, 2014

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2013
by Joan Wolf



The meeting was held on February 13 at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church's Adult Ed room. President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

GUESTS: Steve Andreson ('05 Rubicon), Alex Bax ('13 Rubicon), Alan Dooley ('14 Wrangler), Cory Downing ('08 Rubicon), Bill & Chris Dressler ('13 Wrangler), Robert Gill, Shayne Halter ('70 Bronco), NaDeen Jackson ('05 Wrangler), Frenchie & Karen LaChance ('09 JK), Charles Larrabee, Paul & Adam Lucero ('14 JK), Sandra McIntosh, David Plaster, Karen Savage, Diego Serna, Dennis & Evelyn South ('13 Rubicon), Josh Toles, Andy & Rhonda Townes ('06 Rubicon), Ken Tinker ('05 Rubicon), Donald Tyler, Richard Zarobsky.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Richard Brooks, Jennifer Chapin, Leon Duggar, Gary Hirokawa, Ed Kausche, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Daniel Montano, Bob & Carol Provance, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Mark Werkmeister, Matthew Wheeler, Frank G. Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Tahoe Zahn.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf: By an almost overwhelming majority, it was voted to dispense with reading of minutes. They're available on the club website.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick: Dixon was on business travel but reported a balance of \$1,766.91.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs. Jeff encouraged everyone to check the gallery of photos on the club's website. See somewhere you want to go? Or go again? Repetition is fine — lead a run!

PAST EVENTS:

January 11 – Sagebrush Flat – Mark Wolf. 18 vehicles, many guests, some washout issues. The only thing broken was Cliff's pride as he got a bit tipsy in an unforeseen (to him anyway) hole.

January 26 – Cabezon – Jeff Boggs. 13 vehicles. Great views of Cabezon Peak and Mt. Taylor. Lots more to explore in this area.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 15-16 – Mark Wolf. T or C area, work party for trail maintenance.

March 13, 7 pm – Meeting at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Adult Ed room, 8600 Academy NE.

March 15, 9 am – NMOHVA (New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance) Meeting and Trail Run – Frank G. Whiston. Everyone is welcome to the annual meeting. Agenda will include accomplishments, goals, and elections. This is the 10th Anniversary of NMOHVA. Frank is trying to set up a trail ride following the meeting.

April 10, 7 pm – Meeting at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

April 12 – Manzano Mountains – Cliff Meier. Gates will open on April 1. Easy run on old logging roads.

May 1-3 – Hole in the Rock UT – Keith Jurey. Details on website.

May 3-7 – Moab – Dixon Patrick. Contact Dixon, especially if interested but not yet a member.

May 8-15 – Moab – Cliff Meier. NM4W member, Guy Conway, will lead many of the runs.

May 31 – Gordy’s Hill – Don Roy. Will run hard trails.

Check the club website for other 2014 Events:

June 14 – NM4W Summer Picnic/Meeting, Oak Flat Picnic Area

July 10-12 – Top of the Rockies, Summer Quarterly, Salida CO

July 27-Aug. 2 – All-4-Fun, Silverton CO

Sept. 6-7 – Mt. Blanca CO

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge, Las Cruces

EARN 5 POINTS IN ONE DAY! Be a First-time TRIP Leader

VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Leon Duggar: Leon explained the points system and fines. Cliff and Wolfie were fined for messing up at Sagebrush Flats.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey was absent.

- **Tank Trap trail.** As promised, Don met with the Santa Fe National Forest’s Espanola Ranger District to discuss getting special approval for a run on Tank Trap. It was a hostile audience, probably because they’d looked at the club’s website and knew about the lawsuit. The FS said since we want to go somewhere that is closed (Tank Trap is not on the Travel Management Plan), we have to follow their process. That involves filling out a form and paying \$73. Because there’s a “dam”, the Forest Service has to do an archaeological evaluation. Don will call for clarification as to whether the \$73 is refundable. Don thinks it may be worthwhile to go through the process and show the FS that using the trail is important to the club.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin: Tonight's raffle prizes were two NMOHVA calendars and \$57. Jennifer also had club paraphernalia, including sweatshirts, available for purchase.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston: Frank has been scanning Trail Tales newsletters so we have an electronic record. He's completed 1994-2001.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy reported on recent website modifications:

- Left side of home page, under Announcements, there's now a link so guests have access to the member application.
- Some items will be flagged for officers.
- Members can see Guest page without logging out.
- NM4W calendar items can be exported to a personal phone in real-time. When an item is cancelled, it will come off the phone. Don did an article with instructions for setting up this functionality.
- In cases where it's not clear who owns an event, Don will create default point-of-contacts. The name will be something like membership@_____ or info@_____ and will point to a person or group of people such as the President and/or Vice President.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy: Phil was absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **2014 Summer Quarterly in Salida, CO.** Jennifer Chapin noted that online registration will be turned on February 14. Also, the event will be publicized in the February issue of 4WDrive Lines.
- **4x4 101.** This is an evolving educational process on how to four wheel. Mark Wolf went over 10 quick topics such as spotting and safety equipment.
- **4WD Hardware Promo Program.** Frank brought in the rebate check of \$73.42. He explained how members can opt in for this program in which 3% of sales go back to the club.
- **Tank Trap trail.** See Environmental Affairs Report above.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Summer meeting hosts.** Need hosts for May and July thru September. Host provides soft drinks and a back yard and picks the date. June 14 will be the summer picnic/meeting at Oak Flat Picnic Ground.
- **Search & Rescue.** Recently, NM4W was requested to bring 4WD vehicles and search for someone missing in the Cabezon area. Cliff and others responded (the person was found unharmed). This prompted a renewed interest in joining a formal, established Search & Rescue group. Cliff will attend an upcoming meeting of a group comprised of radio guys. Contact Cliff if interested.
- **Get Well Soon.** Tracy Bakewell said Jeff Rector will have hip surgery soon. Keep Jeff in your thoughts.
- **Santa Fe and Carson NF Forest Plans.** The forests are starting their 4-year planning process. The first step is to hold public meetings on how to design the process. These meetings are organized by a contractor who takes notes and reports back to the Forest

Service. Comments by the 4WD community are welcome and encouraged — but be advised that Forest Service personnel will not be present.

- **New Members voted in:** Bill & Chris Dressler, NaDeen Jackson, Diego Serna, Ken Tinker, and Josh Toles. Welcome!

Thanks to Carol Provance and the Bakewell's for the refreshments.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:15 pm.

Raffle Winner: Mark Wolf won \$57 in the 50/50 raffle. The other \$57 went to NMOHVA. Didn't catch who won the two NMOHVA calendars.

Hosts for Winter meetings

March – Leon & Marcia Duggar

April – Phil & Ilene Rodacy

**check out the calendar on the web site – it is continually updated
and has all of the contact information you need!**



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

Check out the calendar on the website. We are trying out a different approach. In the past events were not posted until someone volunteered to lead or organize them. This tended to leave the impression that not many runs are planned for the future. So, an event(s) or run(s) for each month remaining in 2014 have been added to the calendar, some have leaders identified but most at this time do not. The selection was based on popular past runs. This will allow members and guests to better plan on which runs they want to participate in. This approach also gives members opportunities to step up and be a leader. The runs that do not have an identified leader are tentative until a leader volunteers. At that time the leader can change the date, time or even location. There can be multiple runs each month, such as the months that have a multiple day non-local event, we can still schedule a local run. Therefore, if you have a favorite run that's not on the current calendar, let Jeff Boggs or myself know and we will see it gets added. **But again - we need folks to volunteer to lead runs for this to work!** Let me or Jeff know if you want to volunteer.

While I am on the subject of volunteering, it's time to ask for summer meeting hosts. Summer meetings are held at members' homes. We have a pot luck dinner followed up with a business meeting. Hosts are needed for May, July, August and September.

Lastly, we are having more and more new folks coming to our meetings which is great. Next meeting stay for a few minutes afterward, enjoy the refreshments and make these folks welcome!

See everyone at March meeting on the 13thth.

LEAD A RUN - THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Jack Dickey

There is no Environmental Affair report this month.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC



Leading a NM4W Trail Ride

By Jeff Boggs, Trip Coordinator

The NM4Wheelers have been around for 50 plus years, and every year , members and guests have explored New Mexico and the great Southwestern USA using 4 wheel vehicles. This history is recorded in pictures and stories on our excellent website.

We encourage all members, new and old, to consider leading a ride. Long time members can draw on their vast knowledge of all the wonderful backcountry areas, most near to the Central New Mexico area. Newer members are encouraged to share any areas that they have found, and offer to show us where those areas are.

Now, some routes have been used nearly every year, for club day rides. These are always enjoyed by all. Just getting out is the goal. Dirt roads change and the scenery is always good, never boring.

If you have never led a club ride, you could be nervous to lead a group. It can feel like a "BIG DEAL" and too much to take on, but I will cover just a few tips, to make this "job" easier.

1. Discuss with any officer, your questions regarding leading a club ride. Officers are there to help.
2. Have you explored any areas in New Mexico? Have you seen pictures, or studied maps and want to see an area? Have you seen articles about backcountry areas that others have explored?
3. Going exploring with others is always the safe way to see the forests and desert areas. That is why we joined the NM4W, to go out there with other folks.
4. Pick a date, time, place to meet. Write a short description of the route. Post the information on our website. Again, any officer can help, and there are instructions for posting a ride on the website.
5. Pre running a route is good. I have contacted a few club members to pre run a route, doing this a week or two before the actual event. This is not always necessary, but insures that any gates are open, not locked.
6. Once the National Forests are open, you only need a current map, to insure that routes you have picked are open.
7. Have a working CB radio, in good repair. Put vehicles without a CB's in middle of the line. Channel 4 is common, but its your choice. Ask for a tail gunner, to bring up the rear of your group. Someone always volunteers for this job.
8. Have a "sign up " sheet. Have members and guests sign the list. If you have any questions, long time members will be glad to help you.
9. Taking restroom breaks and a lunch break along the route. This helps everyone get out, take pictures and stretch their legs. Tougher places along the trail may need a Spotter, " Someone who can guide a vehicle through this area". Always keep the vehicle, behind you in sight, so folks stay on the route.
10. Pick a route that can be done in an easy day, allowing for possible "breakdowns". As a leader, you are not responsible for repairing any vehicle that breaks down. 4Wheelers will all help each other. no one will be left behind.
11. Finish up your ride, go to your website posting and close out the ride. Points are given to all who went on the ride, if they are members or guests who have applied on the website. Again, instructions are on the website, and officers can help with this.

If I left out anything, just email me any questions, I am here to help you become a trail leader. The more leaders, the more rides!!!!



Truth or Consequences Trail Maintenance Work Party

by Mark Wolf (alias Wolfie)

NM4W was made aware of two rock slides blocking a very popular trail near Truth or Consequences at the Christmas Party. I decided shortly after the party that since the Chile Challenge was not going to be held during February, it would be an excellent time to go down to see what could be done. Well the weather couldn't have been better! It was near 80 degrees on Saturday and everyone slathered on the sunscreen and put their gloves on to come help.

We met in town at the Chevron station at 7:30 AM to get an early start. We picked up 4 vehicles, adding to the three in camp who would meet us at the turnoff from Caballo Highway. Those in camp were heading to a rendezvous point between camp and town. When Jack's rig came into view I made a left turn and picked everyone up to head over to the trail. I made a wrong turn and immediately got Jack to lead as he had been there about a week or so before to check it out. I was hoping memory would serve me, but that doesn't happen any more for some reason.

We ran a short distance on the trail and decided to stop to air down the tires for the trip up to the "trouble spot". It didn't take long and we arrived at the spot at about 9:00 AM. We immediately set out to work on the slide blocking the trail. It didn't take long and we were moving rocks carefully. We rearranged the rocks at the first spot to allow us to drive over them easily. In fact, a stock SUV should be able to make it over the rocks. After feeling comfortable with what had been done, we headed farther down the trail.

We moved towards the next spot and along the way found some other rocks blocking the trail that we moved either off the trail or used to fill washouts. We finally made it to the second major rock slide and began working to move those rocks. We moved them all off the trail and out to the edge. By the time we were getting this area pretty well situated four local guys showed up and began helping us as they too were there to move rocks that day. One of those guys told us about another spot a little further down the road and we eventually made it there.

This area of the trail had a rock wall supporting the edge of the roadway that had collapsed and the dirt roadway was starting to slough off the edge. There were two large rocks on the uphill side and we decided if we moved them off the trail it would allow trail riders to hug the uphill side and stay away from the edge. We moved the first rock and pushed it over the edge. The second rock was a little larger, but we moved it into the roadway and got Jack to use his winch to pull it closer to the edge. From there "manpower" was utilized to move it off the edge. This area will have to be watched carefully as time will wear it away and the trail will be affected negatively.

After completing this last area, we all went back to our vehicles and decided to drive down the trail a little ways to have lunch. It was noon and high time for lunch! We all got turned around and made it to the lunch spot. We had completed all our work in about three hours' time! Teamwork is awesome! Thanks to everyone who helped!

After lunch, three of us turned towards camp and headed back. The others decided to follow the trail and eventually made their way to the “Towers” on Caballo Mountain. I was told several washouts were encountered, but all made it through. They made it back to camp at about 4:30PM. By then, two of us had left camp and headed home to do other things. Leon stayed at camp to rest and when the others returned they all had a good time talking and eating outside on a beautiful night.

Some people stayed in town and went on another run on Sunday. Frank and his girls went to Monticello Canyon. He reported it was beautiful and they enjoyed the time together as the girls were out of school on Monday and Frank took the day off. It was a great weekend!

Special thanks to Mark Werkmeister, Jennifer Chapin, Leon Duggar, Frank Whiston, Devin Cannady, Bill Bonahoom, Glenn & Rebagayle Vialpando and their two boys, and Jack Dickey. Excellent team players!!



We Need Snow!

Are you ready?



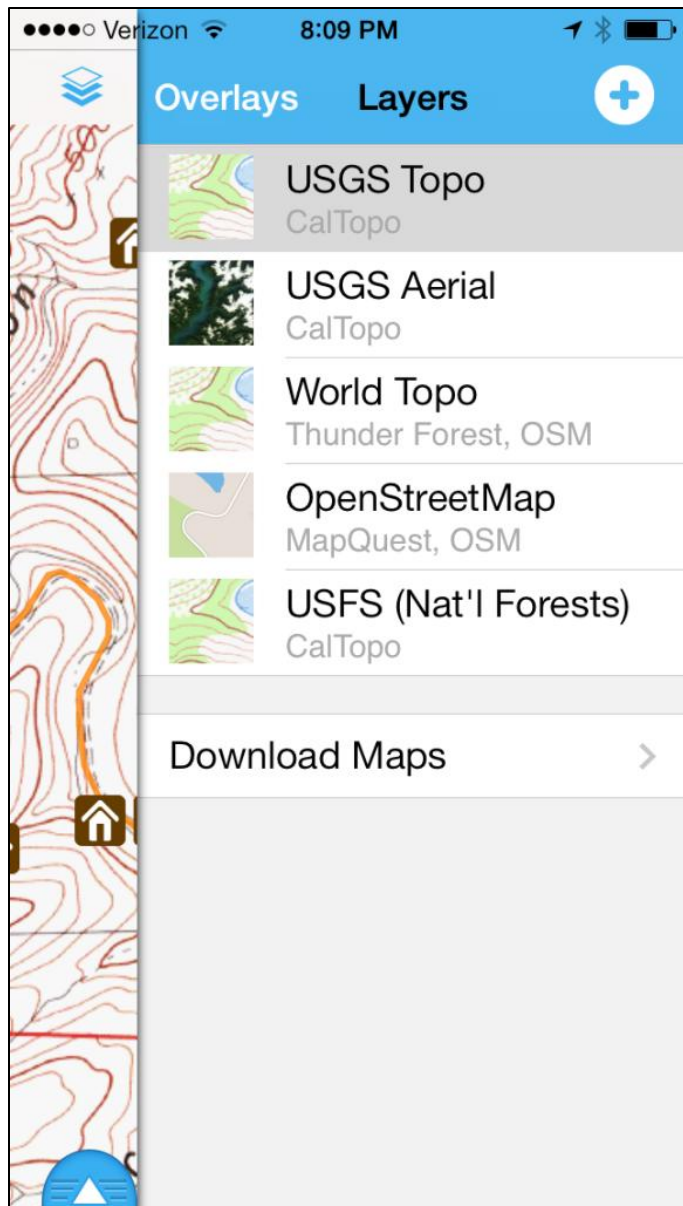


Modern GPS Technology

By Frank Whiston

Modern GPS Technology

I remember not long ago longing for a handheld GPS unit to aid in backcountry navigation. A good GPS unit was at least \$300, and that was just the tip of the iceberg. Once you got a GPS, you needed to purchase a mapping program to upload maps to the device. Memory was limited and if you were lucky, your GPS unit memory was expandable, but that was another added expense. Don't forget a mount for the dash and a DC power cable. All of this kept me from getting into the GPS scene for years in fear of the snowball effect in spending more money on all of the accessories. Technology moves so fast, just about all of what I have mentioned above is now obsolete. Your smartphone or tablet is now capable of doing everything that a handheld GPS can do, and more for little monetary investment. Even my iPhone has a much larger display than my Garmin GPS 60csx. Almost everyone has a smartphone or tablet now, so I will share with you what I am using and know to be available in hopes to help NM4W members navigate the trails. If we can get the club to use these

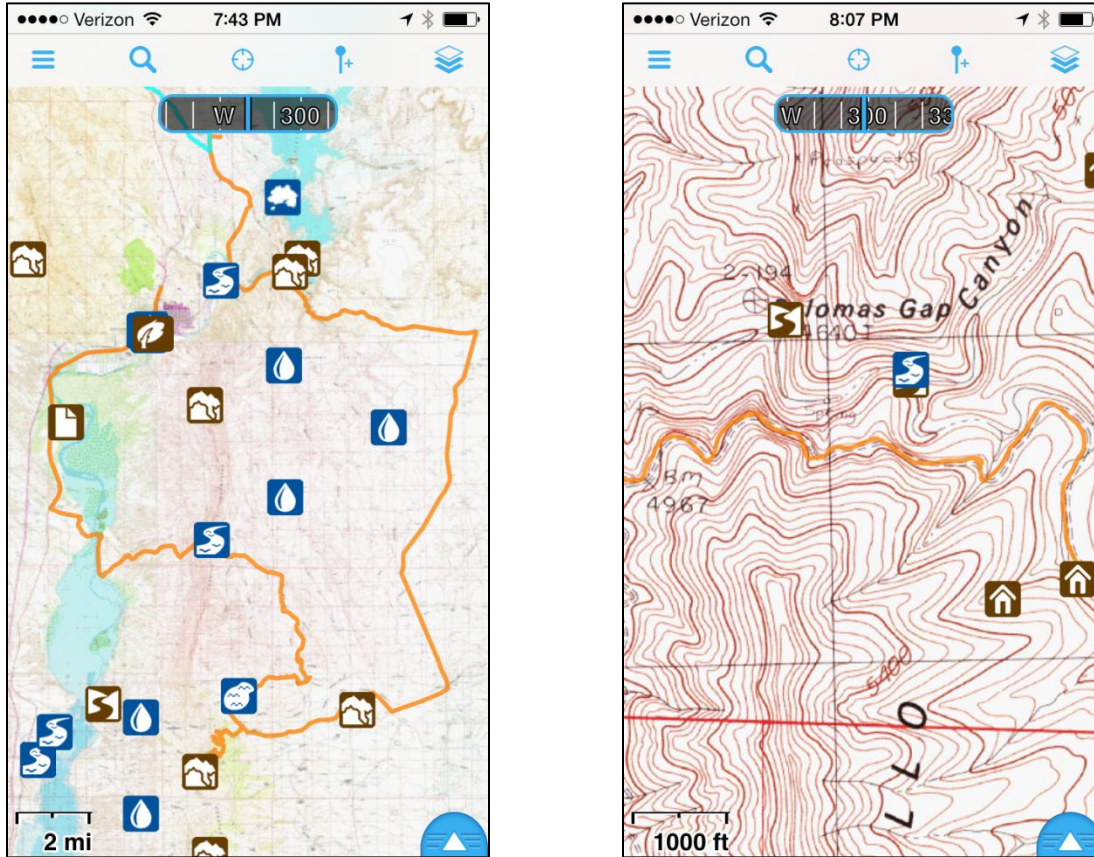


devices like we all use CB radios, we have the potential to build a great library of our favorite routes and share them with each other.

First of all, most smartphones and tablets have built in GPS devices that will work without cell service. It just takes a little pre-planning to download maps before you get away from a Wi-Fi or cellular data connection. I will share with you the GPS app that I am using on my iPhone 5. The App is called [Gaia GPS](#). I am using the basic app that has a one-time cost of \$20 and is available for both Apple and Android devices. Gaia Pro has an annual subscription fee and offers expanded selection of maps and other features. I am not a Pro subscriber. I have been happy with the selection of maps provided without the subscription. My favorite is the USGS Topo because it shows a lot of historical data including 2-track roads and trails listed as 4WD roads. In fact, during the Cabezon ride, I was driving down an arroyo and noticed a "Ruin" called out on the map, so I stopped when I was next to it. Then, I walked over to the edge of the arroyo where I could see up top and there was a weathered rock wall of an old structure. I would have driven right by it

without knowing it was there if I didn't see it on the map. The Open Street Map is also useful when driving on more major roads. In meetings with the BLM, and the NM Game and Fish OHV program, I have heard talks of future kiosks at trailheads with barcode pointers to MVUMs and possibly even track data for free download. This is where the future is headed and it is easy to get started.

For example of the use of this app, I will use the Palomas Gap run that was done on February 15, 2014. Recording tracks is easy and the data can be shared via Email, the Gaia Website, and popular social media. Here are a couple of screen shots from the app:



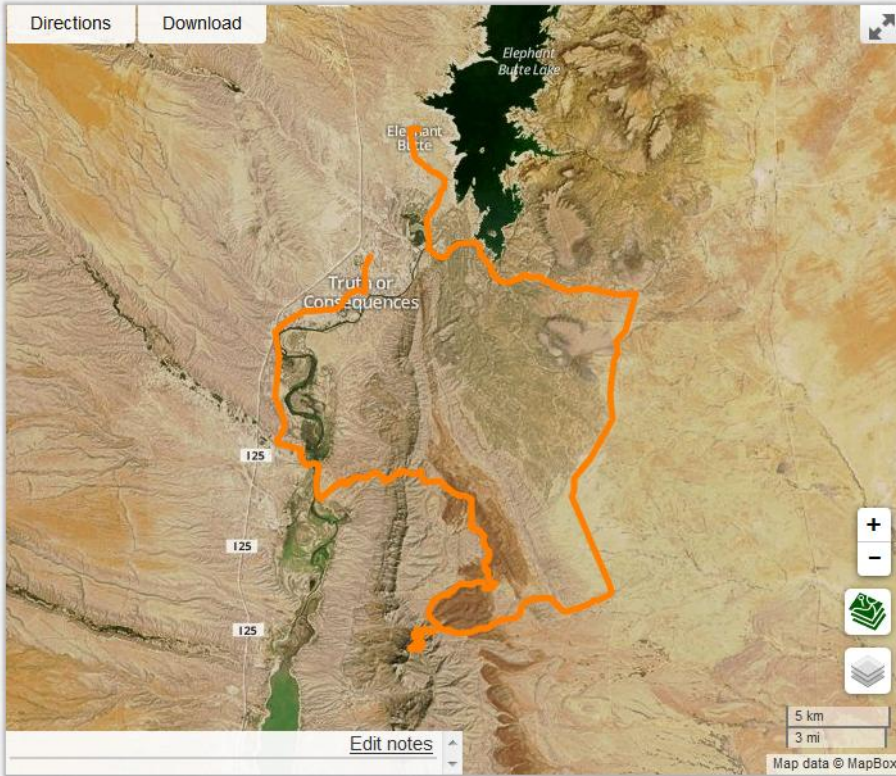
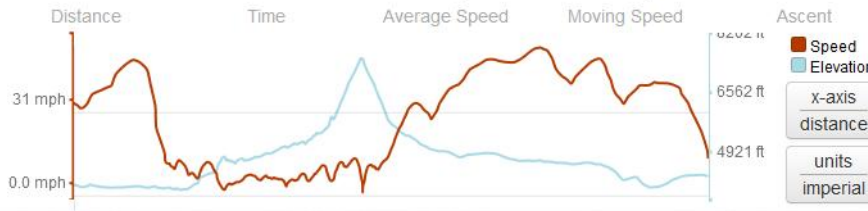
The image on the left is an overall display of the track which was recorded that day. On the right is zoomed into the actual Palomas Gap. Note the 2-track road displayed on the base map and how the track that was laid by the GPS follows it closely. Jack Dickey was using a handheld GPS unit with the waypoints that Glenn Bontley documented a long time ago (http://nm4w.org/WEBEJEEPIN/Trails/New_Mexico/Caballo_Palomas.htm), but he did not have the detail that the USGS Topo base-map provided. We utilized this detail on my phone a lot to find our way from the Palomas Gap to the top of Caballo Mountain as these roads are very sparsely traveled. Although I ended up having a 4G cellular connection almost all day, I had downloaded all of the topo maps in the T or C area to include Monticello Canyon prior to this trip. I used the maximum zoom level which included 43,829 map tiles totaling 984.4Mb of memory. Upon return from this trip, I uploaded the track data to the [Gaia Cloud](#) which is shown below. The app captured the same data that my handheld GPS unit does, including distance traveled, time, average speed, moving average speed, elevation and total ascent. This is all can be shared by link, Facebook, and Twitter. Additionally, the tracks can be emailed from the app which links the Gaia Cloud and includes a [GPX](#) attachment. The format is open and can be used without the need to pay license fees. Its tags store location, elevation, and time and can in this way be used to interchange data between GPS devices and software packages.

Palomas Gap-Caballo Mtn February 15, 2014

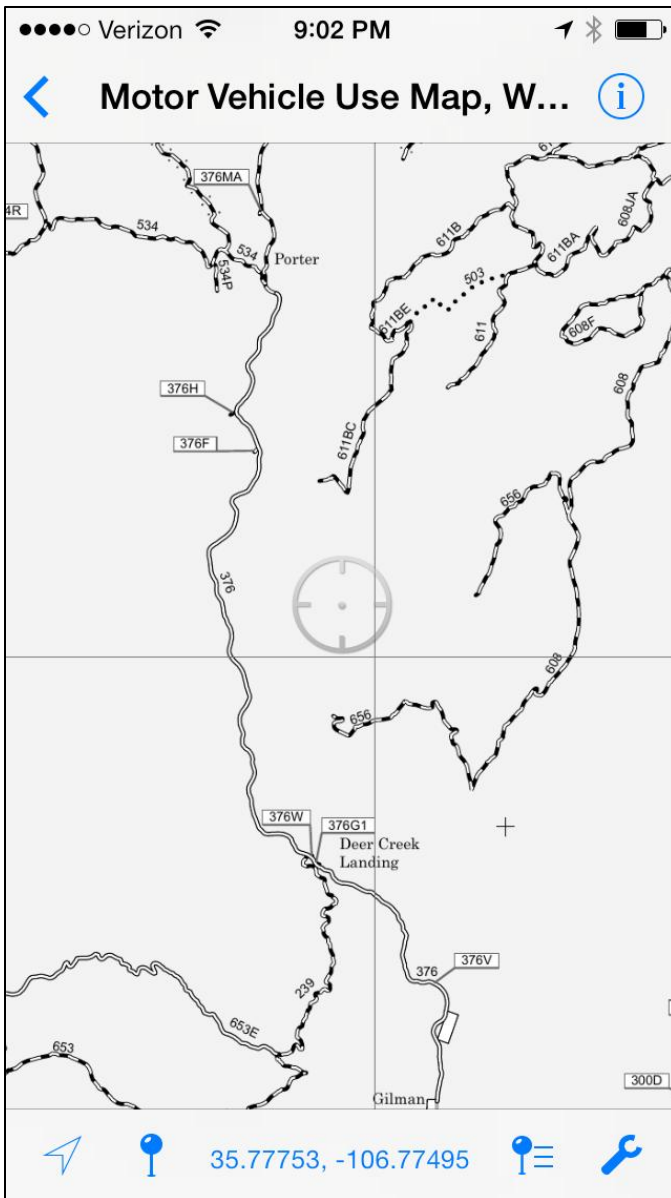


Upload Photos

59.4 miles 8 hrs 52 min 6.7 mph 11.2 mph 4568 ft



If you already have a smartphone or tablet, GPS navigation has never been so affordable.



Another very useful tool for any smartphone or tablet with internal GPS capability is the **FREE PDF Maps app** from Avenza Systems for your Apple iOS and Android smartphones and tablets. A great feature of this free app is the fact that it doesn't have any advertisements. The reason that this app is useful is that many of the USFS Motor Vehicle Usage Maps (MVUMs) are available for free download. Although all MVUMs in New Mexico are not yet available online yet, probably the most useful MVUM is the one for the Santa Fe National Forest. This app enables the user to display the MVUM on the screen of the device and utilize the GPS to display your actual location real-time. Since the MVUMs only display the routes that are open, this is an extremely useful tool to help one stay on the legal routes. There are many roads on the ground in the forest and the most pronounced road is not always the one that has been designated as open. For example, in the map on the left, FR656 appears to end in two places when in fact, the road continues on beyond the designated "end". Without an app like this in your toolbox, it would take quite a

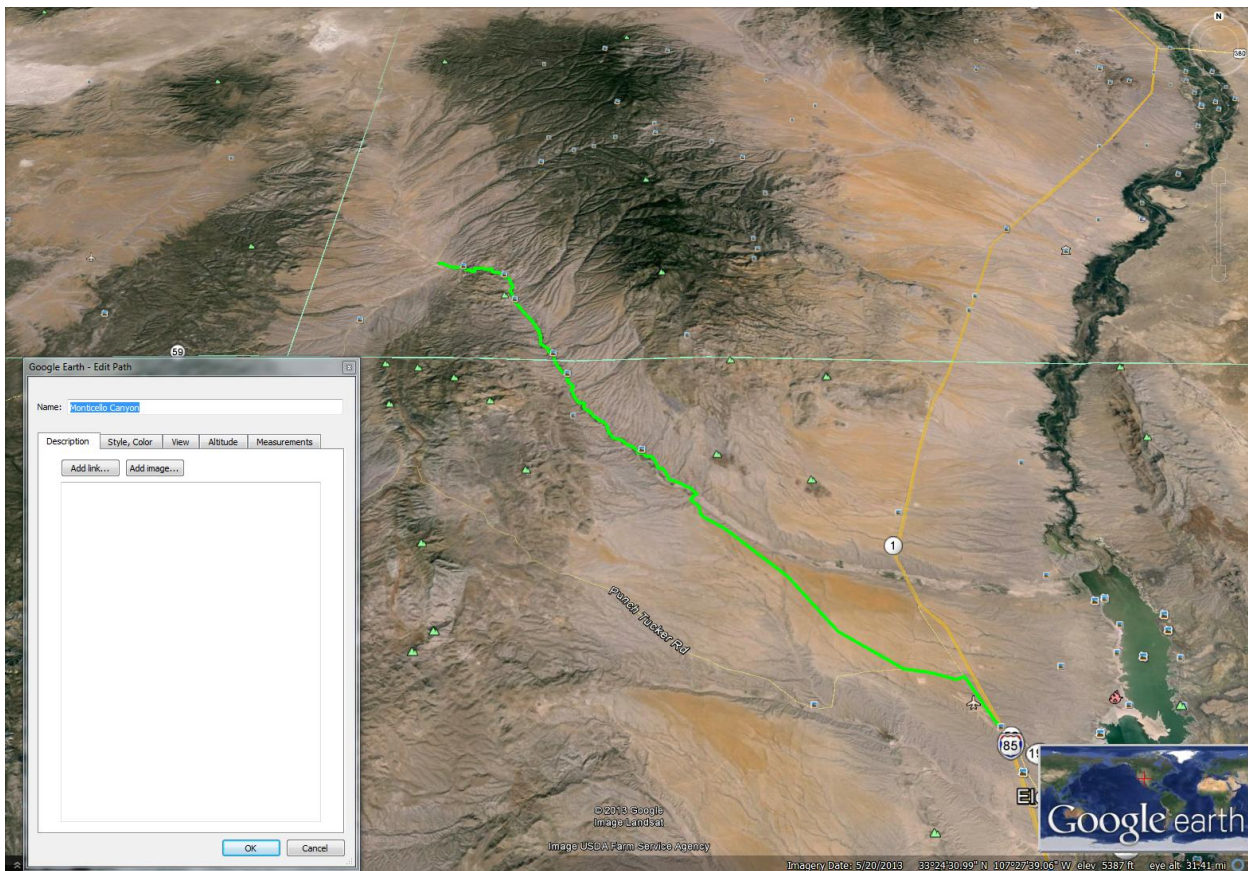
bit of effort to know just where the designated open portion of the road ends. So use the links provided in this article to get more information on these apps and where to download them. Here are a couple of other apps that I have tried or heard about and have many of the same features described above.



Apple Only
[Motion X GPS](#)
Android Only
[Backcountry Navigator](#)

Another way that I have found to use this technology is for virtual pre-running. I use Google Earth program back at home on the computer to scope out routes. The satellite imagery within the program is actually very accurately located. In Google Earth, I draw a path on top of the roads that I wish to drive. Then I save that path as a KMZ file. Then I go to <http://www.gpsvisualizer.com/> where I can convert that file to a GPX format which can be imported into my GPS app on my smartphone as well as my handheld GPS. Then I am set to hit the trails and can just follow the track that I laid out on Google Earth. The only drawback to this is the fact that Google Earth cannot show

you any locked gates that may exist on the route that you have traced out. I have been using this technique for the past couple of years with great success. It worked very well for me on the Eureka Mesa trip, Conejos, and my trip through the Monticello Box the day after the Palomas Gap trip. I had not been to Monticello Canyon since before we were members of the club, so it came in handy to do this virtual pre-run. The loop was completed without a hitch.



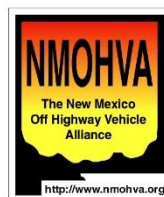
If we could get NM4W members interested in using this technology, we could build a decent library of routes to share with one another. If this interests you, let me know by sending an email to hi@nm4w.org and I would be happy to help get this going. It will only work if we can collaborate input from multiple members.

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<p>Treasurer Dixon Patrick 271-9133 tr@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Jennifer Chapin 305-333-3375 pc@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank G. Whiston 280-7922 hi@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Jack Dickey 505-861-0526 de@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net</p>

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Trail Tales



April 1, 2014

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2013
by Joan Wolf



The meeting was held on March 13 at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church's Adult Ed room. President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

GUESTS: Steve Andreson ('05 Rubicon), Ronnie Caton, Bill Chroninger, Camron Chroninger, Alan Dooley ('14 Wrangler), Robert Gill & Karen Morant, Phil Green, Kendall Key, Adam Lucero, Paul Lucero, David Plaster, Gordon Rowley, Andy & Rhonda Townes ('06 Rubicon), Donald Tyler, Richard Zarobsky ('14 Limited).

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Bill Beenau, Jeff Boggs, Bill Bonahoom, Richard Brooks, Jennifer Chapin, Bill & Chris Dressler, Ed Kausche, Jason Lavy, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Bob & Carol Provance, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Diego Serna, Ken Tinker, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf. Minutes from the February meeting were accepted as printed in the Trail Tales.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick. Dixon was on business travel but reported a balance of \$2,117.81. Payment was approved for \$49.89 to United Rental for equipment rental to do trail maintenance.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs. Jeff urged everyone to frequently check the website for the latest schedule. Lead a run on any public dirt road in NM. Cliff noted that there is now a run posted for every month to show that we're active. If the Leader shows TBD, put your name in. If no one signs up as leader, the run won't happen. Contact the webmaster or any officer to post a run on the website.

PAST EVENTS:

February 15-16 – Mark Wolf. T or C area, 8 vehicles; great group effort on trail maintenance. Afterwards some went up Caballo Peak on Saturday and Monticello Canyon on Sunday.

March 8 – Cedro Peak – Cliff Meier. 17 vehicles. Ran the loop and then the stairs.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 15, 9 am – NMOHVA (New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance) Meeting - Frank G. Whiston. 10th anniversary of this grassroots group that advocates for access to public lands by motorized vehicles.

April 6 or 7 (tentative) – Riley Ghost Town – Jason Lavy. Easy run for stockers. Remote scenic area. Check website for details.

April 10 – Meeting at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

April 12 – Manzano Mountains – Cliff Meier. Leave 9 a.m. from Sandia Ranger Station on south Hwy 14. Or meet at Village of Manzano at 10 a.m. Easy run.

May 1-3 – Hole in the Rock UT – Keith Jurey. Contact Keith if interested, he'll soon open it up to a Denver club.

May 3-7 – Moab – Dixon Patrick. Earlybird Moab.

May 8-15 – Moab & Green River UT – Cliff Meier. Info on website.

May 17, 5 pm – Meeting at Don Roy's house. Potluck followed by meeting. Bring a dish to share, lawn chair, and table setting. Drinks are provided.

May 31 – Gordy's Hill – Don Roy. Hard, challenging trails.

June 8 – Ride for the Cure – Jennifer Chapin. Details will be posted when available.

Check the club website for other 2014 Events:

June 14 – NM4W Summer Picnic/Meeting, Oak Flat Picnic Area

July 10-12 – Top of the Rockies, Summer Quarterly, Salida CO

July 27-Aug. 2 – All-4-Fun, Silverton CO

Sept. 6-7 – Mt. Blanca CO

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge, Las Cruces

TRIP LEADER WBD? SIGN UP TO LEAD A RUN

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar. Leon was absent so Cliff explained the points system and fines. An absent member (all evidence points to Devin Cannady) was fined for sending Wolfie's pry bar over the hill during the Feb 15 trail maintenance project.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey. Jack was absent.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin. Raffle tickets for the 50/50 raffle and club merchandise were available. (Jeff Boggs was the winner of \$50 in the raffle.)

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston: As you do runs, set up an album and upload photos.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy

- Profile page, members can now add three photos.
- Document system, there's now a tab for maps.
- Don converted the backside of the website in three days. Went quicker than expected.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy. Phil welcomes articles from the web, blogs, etc. Be sure to cite the source. Frank was commended for last month's excellent article about GPS's.

4WD HARDWARE CLUB REWARDS PROGRAM – Frank G. Whiston. One more person has signed up. Frank explained this opt-in program to the new members. 3% of sales go back to the club.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **2014 Summer Quarterly in Salida, CO.** The event is open for registration. Don will make sure that guests can see the event on the website.
- **Tank Trap trail.** After submitting the application to run Tank Trap on July 26, Don Roy got a call from the Santa Fe National Forest saying that insurance would be required. The Forest Service rep admitted that this isn't an appropriate process for a day run and he'll try to find a better way to handle it. The existing process is aimed at a large commercial event. Don noted that we haven't been turned down yet.
- **4x4 101 and points system clarification.** New member Paul Lucero requested more information. Bob Provance said there will be a plan soon on how 4x4 101 (four-wheeling basics) will be rolled out. Mark Wolf explained that points are entered into an online tracking system by the Trail Leader or, for meetings, by the VP or Secretary. Once voted in, new members will receive an email notification that they now have full website access.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Las Cruces 4WDC.** Dave Plaster passed on an invitation from the Las Cruces club to join their runs for the next two weekends. Meet 9 a.m. at Chuckie's Gas Station in Las Cruces. (NOTE: This is a request for volunteers to help track new trails for the Chile Challenge.)
- **Summer meeting hosts:**
 1. May 17, Don Roy
 2. June 14, Oak Flat Picnic Ground, south Hwy 14
 3. July, Sandy McIntosh & Dave Plaster
 4. August, Marcia & Leon Duggar
 5. September, Chris & Bill Dressler
- **New Members voted in:** Alan Dooley, Robert Gill, Paul Lucero, Dave Plaster, Diego Serna

Thanks to Jeanne Meier for the refreshments.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:52 pm.

check out the calendar on the web site – it is continually updated and has all of the contact information you need!



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

The events on the club calendar seem to be multiplying like rabbits! This summer there are events for every ones tastes. Be sure a check it out. There are still several events that need a leader, sign up!! One event, the Zuni Mountain Campout and Run has been an annual event that has not been held for several years but is back this year. It is hosted by the Jeeps West club out of Gallup and has been one of the premiere annual events, one not to be missed. See the calendar for details.

The 4X4 101 training is coming together. The overall description of the training will be roundtables, beside the trail sessions, demonstrations and trail ride clinics. The first will be a roundtable after the April meeting to discuss what the concerns and needs of new members are. Following on April 26 will be a discussion and demonstration of 4X4 topics; such as vehicle modifications, tire air downing, trail manners, safety, driving techniques and other topics. A short trail ride will follow. This training will held in the Cedro Peak area. Check the calendar for more details.

We have volunteers for all the summer meetings. Thank you for everyone who volunteered! The calendar will have details for each of the meetings, dates, times and location with directions. These meetings are always really fun with great pot luck dinners. I encourage everyone to come.

See everyone at April meeting on the 10th.

**LEAD A RUN -
THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL**



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Jack Dickey

There is no Environmental Affair report this month.

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First 4x4 101 Class to be held April 26

On Saturday Apr 26 we will hold the first of the 4X4 101 training sessions. The training will be designed for new club members and guests. The exact location will announced later but tentatively it will be in the Cedro Peak/Tijeras area.

This first session will cover basic 4 wheeling subjects including basic 4X4 terminology & equipment, vehicle components, demonstrations of several stock and moderately built Jeeps, what you need to do to prepare your vehicle and yourself for the trail, off road driving techniques, plus other topics.

The training will be organized into morning discussions and demonstrations. We will then lead a short afternoon trail ride so that you can practice the driving techniques discussed in the morning session. Bring your lunch and be ready for a lot of fun.

The first sessions in the morning would cover:

1. Trail Etiquette
 - a. Drive carefully/safely.
 - b. Drive slowly.
 - c. Limit loud noises (radios, gun your engine, spin your tires, use your horn only if needed, etc.).
 - d. When stopping pull over, do not block the road/trail.
 - e. Up hill has the right away (it's the law in Colorado) unless it is unsafe to do so.

- f. Pull over for bikes horses, hikers. Shut off your engine for horses and pack animals.
 - g. Avoid crossing streams unless there is no choice. If you have to cross do it slowly making as little disturbance as possible.
 - h. If someone overtakes you, such as an ATV or motorcycle, pull over a let them pass.
 - i. Control your pets at all times. Not everyone is a dog lover and most do not appreciate Rover 's help eating lunch. Don't let them bark or chase wildlife.
 - j. Don't switch around in line.
 - k. Stay on the road/trail.
 - l. No drinking alcoholic beverages on the trail. Save it for home or camp.
 - m. Know the state vehicle licensing requirements
 - n. Know the Forest Service/BLM/State rules.
 - o. Be aware of your passenger's scare factor (it's OK to get out and walk – many people call it a "Photo Op").
 - p. Be courteous to all.
2. Review of Personal and Vehicles Preparedness Lists (before the run) that was discussed at the April meeting.
 3. 4X4 Terminology Review (lets all speak the same language)
 - a. Overall
 - b. Parts
 - c. Modifications
 - d. ?
 4. On the Trail Communications
 - a. CB
 - b. Cell Phone
 - c. Ham radio
 5. Preparation at the Trailhead
 - a. Air down
 - b. Driver's meeting
 - i. What is covered
 - ii. Sign in
 - c. Duties of the Leader and Tail Gunner
 6. Driving Techniques
 - a. Low and Slow (use low range and go slow).
 - b. Know your vehicle limitations and yours.
 - c. Rocks and other high points
 - d. Use a spotter, trust your spotter.
 - e. Get out of your vehicle and scout ahead.
 - f. Climbing ledges
 - g. Crossing water
 - h. Driving uphill
 - i. Driving side hills

- j. Blind curves
- k. Crossing a log
- l. Crossing large rocks
- m. Getting high centered
- n. Anticipate (be in low range before you need it)
- o. Driving downhill
- p. Parking on a steep hill
- q. Passing on narrow shelf roads
- r. Gullies and washouts
- s. Ravines
- t. Sand
- u. Dust and washboard roads
- v. Turning around on a very narrow road.

Demonstrations:

1. Use several vehicles and go over their modifications, equipment carried, etc.
2. Air down/air up (Why?)
3. Jacking
4. Winch safety (safety around a winching activity, save actual winch operations for another session)

Trail Ride:

1. Proceed to stair steps, demo climbing ledge, picking a line, etc.
2. Proceed to the lower valley to straddle the ruts, etc. Take the connector trail down to the valley for a little experience going down the small ledges.
3. Maybe take turns strapping a vehicle up the ledges on the connector trail.

Additional, more advanced classes will be held if people are interested.

For more information or questions contact Mark Wolf at comanche4wheeler@hotmail.com



History of the Hummer

By Jennifer Chapin

HUMMER[®]
LIKE NOTHING ELSE™

Think back to 1983. Here are some fun facts:

Time Magazine Men of the Year: Ronald Regan & Yuri Andetopov

Super Bowl XVII Champions: Washington Redskins

Baseball World Series: Baltimore Orioles

NCAA National Champions: University of Miami

The Computer Mouse was invented

Number One Song (March 5th – April 22nd): Billie Jean by Michael Jackson

New Mexico 4-Wheelers Turns 25

The original Hummers were first designed by AM General Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Motors. They were built in its Mishawaka, Indiana, assembly plant. In 1979, the United States Army was seeking contractors for a new "**High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle**" which could follow the tracks and ruts of full size army trucks (HMMWV). Among the four competitors for the contract, AM General designed an entirely new vehicle to meet the Army's requirements. In less than one year, it was the first to deliver a prototype vehicle to the United States Army. The Initial production versions were delivered to the Army's proving grounds in April 1982.

After testing was completed AM General was awarded the contract to supply its HMMWV to the United States armed forces. The first contract was in 1983, worth US \$1.2 billion to produce 55,000 "Humvees" by 1985. After the first production vehicle was assembled by AM General in 1985, the contract was later increased for an additional 15,000 HMMWV's.

In the late 1980's AM General planned to sell a civilian version of the Humvee. The civilian HMMWV were finished in automotive gloss paint, adding passenger car enhancements and convenience packages. The story goes that AM General produced the civilian because of persistence of then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

It took until 1992 for AM General to begin selling a civilian version of the M998 Humvee vehicle to the public under the brand name "Hummer".

In December 1999, AM General sold the brand name to General Motors, but continued to manufacture the vehicles. General Motors was responsible for the marketing and distribution of all Hummers produced by AM General. Shortly thereafter, GM introduced two of its own design models, the H2 and H3, and renamed the original vehicle H1. AM General continued to build the H1 until it was discontinued in 2006. AM General produced the H2. The H3 was built in Shreveport, LA alongside the Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon pickups.

In 2006, the Hummer began to be exported and sold through importers and distributors in 33 countries. On October 10, 2006, GM began producing the Hummer H3 at its Port Elizabeth plant in

South Africa for international markets. The Hummers built there at first were only left-hand drive, but right-hand drive versions were added and exported to Australia and other markets.

On June 3, 2008, one day prior to GM's annual shareholder meeting, Rick Wagoner, GM's CEO at that time, said the brand was being reviewed, and had the possibility of being sold, having the production line completely redesigned, or being discontinued. This was due to the decreasing demand for large SUVs as a result of higher oil prices.

In April 2009, GM President Fritz Henderson stated several interested parties had approached GM regarding the Hummer business.

On June 1, 2009, as a part of the [General Motors bankruptcy](#) announcement, the company revealed that the Hummer brand would be discontinued. However, the following day GM announced that instead it had reached a deal to sell the brand to an undisclosed buyer. It was also revealed that the price tag of the Hummer brand was \$150 million. There were various reports of companies pursuing purchasing the Hummer brand. However, on April 7, 2010, these attempts failed and General Motors officially said it was shutting down the Hummer SUV brand.



Hummer H1 Civilian Model



Hummer H2



Hummer H3



Cedro Peak Run March 8, 2014

by Cliff Meier



On Mar 8th at 9:00am 22 folks and in 16 vehicles met at the Sandia Ranger Station for a run around Cedro Peak. In this group we had 8 guests, which was great. The main road, Forest Road (FR) 462 was graded most of the way last year so this run was an easy run, a great place to try out a new vehicle or for first timers. We proceeded from the Ranger Station on NM Hwy 337 to the turn off on FR 462A to Chamisoso Canyon and FR 462. Chamisoso Canyon used to have a county landfill years ago and way back before that is had a camping/picnic area. Now entry at the end of the road is blocked. The area is a Forest Service administration

area and a heliport. As we drove on FR 462 we went through an area that has had heavy fire suppression clearing and proscribed burns. After a short time we came to the intersection of roads 462/ 12/13. We proceeded down into the valley on 12 and then looped back to 13 on the top of the ridge. The climb up to 13 had several small ledges that afforded a chance to practice tire placement. After reaching 13 we proceeded to the staircase steps on FR 562.



We spent some time playing on the steps. Almost everyone that tried the steps conquered them without any problems. From the steps we drove to the group picnic area to get out of the wind and had lunch. It was too cold and windy to eat lunch at the overlook! After lunch we retraced our route but stayed on 13 to FR 462 and then out to the northeast through the Tablizon housing development. Al in all it was a great day with the exception of the weather that ranged from blowing light snow, windy and cool to cold (depends on who you talk to!). But as an “old” club philosopher says, *it's better than staying home and doing chores!* Keep tuned for a Cedro Peak night run this summer.



How to Pee and Poop in the Woods

Contributed by Frank Whiston

<http://www.trailspace.com/articles/backcountry-waste-disposal.html>

Human Waste Disposal in the Backcountry: How to pee and poop in the woods



by [Bobbi Maiers](#)

April 2, 2010



If a toilet is available, like this outhouse in Southern Alberta, Canada, use it.

(Photo credit: Ben Lawhon)

Most hikers, backpackers, and climbers know that answering the call of nature in the backcountry can present an interesting (sometimes embarrassing) challenge. At the very least, it may cause uncertainty. What are the rules? When and where is it okay to dig? What's this "blue bag" business?

As a growing number of outdoors people head into the backcountry pondering those questions, the impacts on the landscape are growing, too. Some suggested practices are changing as human waste disposal in the great outdoors continues to have serious environmental, health, and aesthetic impacts.

Here, for all of you who've pondered "dig or pack it out?" when rules are unclear, wished for a Port-o-Biff at 12,000 feet, or have worries about using a WAG Bag, are guidelines for taking care of business in an earth-friendly way when you're miles from indoor plumbing.

The Importance of Poop Protocol

According to The Outdoor Foundation's 2009 [Outdoor Recreation Participation Report](#), 7.8 million people backpacked in 2008. The report defined backpacking as spending one night outdoors at least a quarter-mile away from a vehicle. While it's safe to assume that many of those people were just a short stroll away from the loo, let's say that half of them, just once, ventured into the big-time backcountry and were miles from an actual toilet. That's 3.9 million people making, on average and in addition to urine, one number two deposit per day in the wilderness.

In short: that's a lot of poop.

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“Human waste and what we do with it can be one of the most significant impacts that faces lands used by the public for recreation,” said Ben Lawhon, education director for the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. “It’s a disease impact, water quality impact, social and aesthetic impact — and it’s something that a lot of people just have a hard time dealing with.”

The aesthetic issue is obvious: no one wants to hike or climb amid exposed human feces or tufts of soiled toilet paper floating merrily on the breeze. Feces contain a cocktail of germs, and no one enjoying the backcountry wants to see it, smell it, come in contact with it, or worse, get sick due to its improper disposal. “Different water-borne illnesses are correlated to human use of a given area,” said Jason Martin, operations manager at American Alpine Institute and a Leave No Trace Master Educator. “When that stuff gets in [the water supply], obviously it becomes a problem.”

Take a casual slurp from a clear, gurgling mountain stream and you’re inviting the *Giardia lamblia* parasite to take up residence in your small intestine. A main culprit in water-borne illness, the parasite can live for months in chilly ponds or lakes. It gets there through animal or human feces being deposited directly in or too close to water sources. *Giardia* symptoms, which usually set in a week or two after infection, include diarrhea and abdominal cramps, gas, nausea, sometimes vomiting, and usually a low-grade fever. Cryptosporidiosis, another parasite that causes severe diarrhea, is also a concern, as is Hepatitis A.

According to Mike Smith, a forest planner with the U.S. Forest Service in Colorado’s San Isabel National Forest, backcountry waste disposal is a problem many land managers share. High trail use, hikers’ improper disposal methods, no mandatory pack-it-out requirements, and a lack of funds to provide education, oversight, and supplies (like [WAG Bags](#), which we’ll get to later) make for unappealing encounters on the trail.

Trails in San Isabel's South Colony Lakes Basin, Smith said, see 50 to 100 people every day in the summer season, many of whom spend a night or two, and signs of that heavy use are apparent. "Walk 50 feet from any campsite and you're going to find little white toilet paper muffins scattered around," Smith said. "There's only so many rocks and trees."



(Photo credit: Howard Kern)

Places without clear practices may be struggling, but those that have implemented rules have seen success. Eric White, lead climbing ranger on Mt. Shasta in California's Shasta Trinity National Forest said packing out waste became mandatory in 1997. "We average about two and a half tons of human waste that's carried out by the climbers themselves," he said. "People are getting used to the fact that it has to be dealt with in the alpine environment."

Lawhon said Leave No Trace's goal is to provide a spectrum of approved options for waste disposal, and it's up to hikers and climbers themselves to determine where on that spectrum they feel comfortable. "We've tried to make it attainable for people to appropriately deal with waste in the backcountry," he said. "If you say 'gotta pack it out, every time,' you just turn people off. The closer you get to the frontcountry, the more flexible you have to be. It's a continuum, and on one end you've got toilets at the trailhead, and on the other, you've got people packing out their waste."

Knowing what methods exist, and which method to practice where, can help assure that wild areas, even well-traveled ones, remain as pristine as possible.

First, a Word About Number One

Peeing in the backcountry is a relatively simple affair, especially in comparison to human waste disposal. "What we advocate is, pee well away from water sources, trails, and campsites," said Lawhon. "Based on

World Health Organization and CDC [Center for Disease Control] research that has looked at urine, with most healthy people, urine is not a big deal. It's generally very harmless on the environment.”

Always stick to the standard rule of urinating 200 feet from campsites, water sources, and trails; but digging a hole or packing it out isn't necessary. Men have it easy, just aim at an appropriate spot. Avoid peeing on plants that could be defoliated by animals attracted to the salt in urine. Women need to avoid their boots and pants (see [Women Only](#) below for tips). Consider diluting the site with extra water to cut down on odor.

Backcountry Bathroom Options for Number Two



A trowel can be essential for the dig-and-bury method.

Once you're out of range of that trailhead toilet, your options for dealing with number two are fairly simple: **you can dig a hole and bury your solid waste, or you can pack it out.** Those are the main methods Leave No Trace advocates, and those most widely used. Other methods include smearing (yes, you read that right) or tossing. These options, not approved by Leave No Trace, should only be used in rare circumstances, particularly if you're in a very remote area.

Two important things to know before heading out: first, follow the area land manager's guidelines. If the Forest Service says thou shalt pack out waste, then arm thyself with a WAG Bag or other receptacle and

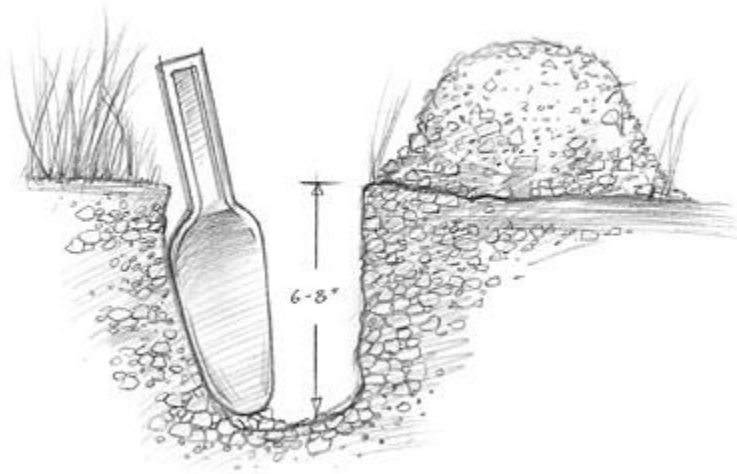
follow the rules. "Talking to whatever land manager is in a given area is the most important thing of all. Find out what they feel is most appropriate. Don't assume," said Martin.

Second, know and follow as many of the four objectives Leave No Trace outlines for backcountry waste disposal:

1. Minimize the chance of water pollution.
2. Minimize the spread of disease.
3. Minimize aesthetic impact.
4. Maximize decomposition rate.

Dig and Bury

Digging a cathole and burying feces is the most common backcountry waste disposal method in places that don't have a specific pack-it-out rule. "It's our primary recommendation, if no toilet facilities are provided. We always default to a cathole for most terrestrial environments," Lawhon said. When the rules for choosing a site and digging a cathole are followed precisely, there are many advantages, outlined in Leave No Trace's principle on proper waste disposal:



Dig catholes 6-8 inches deep and 200 feet from water, trails, and campsites. (© Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics)

- Catholes are generally easy to dig and easy to disguise afterward.

- They are private, and it's easy to select a remote site other hikers won't encounter.
- They disperse waste, enhancing decomposition.

Your cathole site must be a minimum of 200 feet away (that's about 70 adult steps) from water, trails, and campsites, ideally near thick underbrush, decaying logs or any places other hikers aren't likely to encounter it, and in organic soil to facilitate decomposition. The actual hole must be six to eight inches deep and four to six inches in diameter. A small trowel should be a part of your essential gear for any hiking trip. (Even if you think you'll be near an actual toilet, there's always the chance you'll need to make an urgent stop on the trail.) Know the length of your trowel and use it as your measurement tool when digging.

Once you've taken care of business, the hole must be filled in, covered over (don't touch the waste with your trowel), and disguised with ground material. Be sure to scatter catholes if you're spending more than one night in an area, or if you're camping in a group. "Just because there's nobody there doesn't mean it's not heavily used," said Martin. "If I'm going to use the bathroom in the woods, I don't want anyone to find it ever again."

Consider that in shallow catholes, pathogens in feces can remain a health hazard for a year, according to *Leave No Trace: A Guide to the New Wilderness Etiquette* by Annette McGivney. So, once you've found an appropriate spot, dig the full six to eight inches deep. Avoid digging catholes in areas where the waste is unable to break down, such as arctic, desert, or alpine environments (see [Unique Environments](#) below).

Latrines



Catholes and latrines can be dug with a trowel, ice axe, or, in a pinch, a stick. (Photo credit: Ben Lawhon)

Latrines are not commonly used, but you should opt for a designated latrine site “if you're going to be in a large group in one area for an extended period of time, or if you're going to be in a group of people you aren't certain can properly dig catholes,” Lawhon said, such as “kids or others who might not choose the right site or dig correctly.”

Don't think pit toilet; Leave No Trace recommends a latrine be essentially a long cathole. Dig a six-foot trench (length dependent on group size), start at one end, and cover up as deposits are made. Follow the same requirements for site selection and depth as you do a single cathole site: a minimum of 200 feet away from water, trails, and campsites, in organic soil.

Because they have a greater concentration of waste-to-soil, the waste in latrines take longer to decompose than in catholes, up to three years, according to *Leave No Trace* by McGivney. Therefore, latrines should only be used when necessary.

T.P. Procedures

Aside from your number two deposit, the only other item allowed in your cathole or latrine is white, non-perfumed toilet paper, according to Leave No Trace. But many hikers have differing opinions on whether leaving your toilet paper in the earth is actually appropriate. “The issue is more that you're leaving something that shouldn't be left behind,” said Martin. “There's no reason not to carry it out. It's one small Ziploc, even for a big trip.”

Depending on the habitat and how fast buried waste breaks down, toilet paper can remain long after feces. Bottom line: no one wants to see a blooming bouquet of butt-wipe on the trail. The most astute hiker will pack out their toilet paper, in the interest of truly leaving as little trace of his or her presence as possible. If you must bury your toilet paper, use as small an amount as possible and be sure to dig deep enough.

Many natural materials can be used in place of toilet paper: fallen leaves (identify first), packed snow, even smooth river rocks. Bury the materials in the cathole after using. Baby wipes are effective for personal cleansing, but must be packed out.

Two definite T.P. rules: **never bury toilet paper in a desert environment** (it's not wet enough to facilitate decomposition), and **never burn it** (wildfires).

Pack it Out

Many popular, high-use areas like Mount Rainier, Mount Shasta, Denali, and Mount Hood — the list is ever-growing — require you to pack out your waste. And some hikers pack out their poo even when they don't have to, in the interest of trying to make as little impact on the environment as possible.

We'll get to the methods in a moment, but first and foremost, having the proper supplies — mainly a reliable, sanitary receptacle and hand sanitizer— is essential. You have several options, from fancy store-bought bags to homemade, rudimentary containers. (Note: even if you plan to dig and bury, it's a good practice to carry pack-it-out supplies anyway, for emergency circumstances we'll address later.)

1. WAG Bag



Wag Bags contain an inner bag and an outer for storage. Remember your hand sanitizer.

WAG (Waste Alleviation and Gelling) Bag has become the overall term for any pack-it-out bag system. It generally involves one bag with which you glove your hand and grab your business and another sturdier, sealable bag in which you deposit and seal the dump. Wag Bags are sometimes called "Blue Bags," and packing it out referred to as the "blue bag method" because the bags provided to hikers at Mt. Rainier are blue, and Rainier has had a pack-it-out requirement for many years.

Cleanwaste, the company that coined the actual term "WAG Bag," has renamed their product the GO Anywhere waste kit. It includes a biodegradable waste pickup bag loaded with Poo Powder, a "transport bag," toilet paper and hand sanitizer. The Poo Powder works by gelling more liquid waste, breaking down solids and controlling odor.

[ReStop](#) and [Biffy Bags](#) are other manufacturers of waste bag kits, powders, and supplies.

2. Homemade Wag Bag

You easily can create your own Wag Bag using an interior/pickup bag, pre-packed with kitty litter if you wish, which functions similar to Poo Powder, and a larger, sturdy outer bag — think freezer-weight Ziploc. Heavy-duty trash compactor bags work as a Wag Bag trash bag. If bags don't seem sturdy enough, some

people use a coffee can as their outer container. Tupperware with a snug-fitting lid that you're certain you no longer need in the kitchen would work, too.

Rangers at Mt. Shasta offer a user-friendly homemade kit to all their hikers, which includes an 11 x 17 sheet of paper with a bull's-eye printed on it for pickup. Just place the bull's-eye on your poo pile, according to White, and you'll have plenty of paper to wrap around it, avoiding all hand contact. Their kit also includes a one-gallon Ziploc bag and a sack with kitty litter. There are disposal receptacles at the trailhead, and hikers can pick up kits there or at area outdoor shops.

Users who make their own Wag Bags should note that homemade versions can't be tossed into landfills, as can EPA-approved commercial ones, like GO Anywhere, Biffy Bags, and ReStop.

"Wagging" Tips



Powders, like Poo Powder above, or kitty litter solidify waste and control odors.

Best practices for using a wag bag come with, well, practice. Generally, when nature calls, you grab your bag kit, toilet paper, bag for used toilet paper, and hand sanitizer and head off to find a secluded area where people are unlikely to encounter your bare bottom. You squat and do your business. You then take your trusty wag kit, slip the inner bag over your hand and grab your poo pile. Be careful not to spill the poo powder or kitty litter inside (so picking up your pile with the top part of the bag is best).

Then, fully enclose the poo and make sure the powder or litter has covered it. In other words, become familiar with touching your warm feces through a layer or two of plastic. It's all part of hiking and climbing! Then, seal that bag inside the thicker, outer bag or stash inside your container of choice. Place your used toilet paper in the bag. Clean your hands with hand sanitizer. Wag complete.

3. Poop Tube

A poop tube is often a climber's preference, but hikers, backpackers, and paddlers can certainly use one, too. You'll need a length of PVC pipe (around 4 inches in diameter), a cap for one end, and a threaded

fitting and plug for the other. (For cleaning, it's helpful to be able to remove both ends.) What length you cut is dependent on the length of your trip and, frankly, how much you poop. Six to 10 inches is standard, though 12 to 25 inches is recommended for longer trips. Either secure it to your pack with pack straps, or use duct tape and cord to make a handle and clip it to your pack for easy access. Pack standard coffee filters, place those on the ground, and aim. Or poop into brown paper bags. Then wrap up the business, send it down the tube, and seal it up.

Whether you pack it out in a bag, a tube, or Tupperware, waste should be properly disposed of after reaching the trailhead, often that means into a toilet. Some of the commercially available bags are EPA-approved for landfills, but check rules first.

Pack-Out Musts



Dispose of waste in approved containers or toilets only. (Photo credit: Howard Kern)

Some waste items you always pack out, no matter where you are, what the climate, is or how small an item it is. Those items include tampons, pads, and other feminine hygiene products (see the [Women Only](#) section below), and diapers.

Jason Martin, father of two, noted that the Australia-based gDiapers company offers diapers with inserts that supposedly biodegrade completely in a compost pile. However, a six or eight-inch cathole does not offer prime composting conditions. Stick with the Leave No Trace advisement and pack out all of your baby's dirty diapers.

Smear or Toss

These are little-used methods of disposal for special circumstances. **Smearing** involves taking solid waste and smearing it thinly on a rock that is off the trail and will receive direct sun, so UV rays cook the pathogens and dry out the dung, and the wind can blow it away.

"It's no longer supported by Leave No Trace, in part because it doesn't seem to be done properly," said Martin. "The proper way to do the smear technique is to smear it on extremely thinly. A lot of people smear it on like peanut butter." The thicker the smear, the longer it takes to dry and disappear, meaning there's a great chance of other hikers coming across it. This method should never be used in popular, high-use areas.

The **toss** method ("We often refer to it as the shit bird," said Martin) is used when the environment doesn't allow you to bury — particularly in high alpine areas, on moraines, or near crevasses. You make your deposit on a rock and you literally toss it down, or away. The toss method should only be used in very low-use areas for obvious reasons. Lawhon said tossing was often employed in coastal areas, with the poop being tossed out into the ocean on a rock, but Leave No Trace's education review committee determined there wasn't enough scientific proof that the waste was adequately decomposing, so they no longer recommend it.

For Women Only

Pee Positions

Finding the proper peeing position and avoiding splatters on your pants or boots requires some trial-and-error practice with the main methods: squat (the often-used, often-disliked-due-to-splattering method), sit, or stand.

Kathleen Meyer, outdoorswoman, former river guide, and author of [*How to Shit in the Woods: An environmentally sound approach to a lost art*](#), offers up the best step-by-step guide on peeing while sitting and still keeping your pants clean:

1. Find a secluded spot with two rocks and/or logs, where you can sit on one and prop your feet up on the other.
2. Slide down your pants or shorts (you haven't forgotten your T.P. and hand sanitizer, have you?).
3. Set yourself on the edge of one surface.
4. Prop your feet on the other surface (you're essentially creating a wilderness potty chair).
5. Eliminate.



An old, well-labeled water bottle can serve as a pee bottle (ladies can use a FUD, like the GoGirl, for assistance) or an emergency poop tube.

“It’s also possible to master a stand-up peeing technique clothed in a pair of standard loose-fitting shorts — by sliding the crotch material to one side,” Meyer writes. “Practice is the secret, they say.” If you’re willing to practice, the key seems to be enough spread in the legs and proper tilt of the pelvis. Good luck; have some sanitary wipes and a fresh pair of drawers handy the first few tries.

Female Urination Devices (FUD's)

Or women can pick up an FUD, a female urination device or director, certain to make all outdoor elimination a cinch. FUD's, like the [GoGirl](#) or [Freshette](#), are small funnels. You hold the funnel close, let go, and (in the case of the Freshette) use the hose, well, sort of like a penis. Practice at home, in the shower or over the toilet, before hitting the trail.

Feminine Hygiene Products

On dealing with feminine hygiene products, Leave No Trace's guidelines are simple: Pack out all used tampons and pads. Do not try to bury them; They will not readily decompose and animals may be attracted to them. Do not try to burn them; It would take a very, hot intense fire to burn them completely.

Lawhon said LNT is receiving many inquiries about the [DivaCup](#), a non-absorbent, pliable cup that collects menstrual fluid and has become popular with long-distance hikers. "What we came up with was to cathole that fluid, because it's a biohazard," Lawhon said. "The same principles apply."

Pet Waste



In the frontcountry, pack out all pet waste. In the backcountry, treat it the same as human waste: either bury it or pack it out, depending on local guidelines.

"We encourage folks to consider packing out pet waste, even from the backcountry, but realize the practicalities and challenges of this recommendation," said Lawhon. "Therefore, we feel that catholing pet waste is perfectly acceptable."

Standard catholing guidelines should be followed.

Waste Disposal in Unique Environments

Human waste breaks down very slowly, sometimes not at all, in desert, alpine, and arctic environments. Even when buried the bacteria in feces can survive for years, so alternative disposal methods should be followed in these environments.

Above Tree Line

Alpine environments are far more delicate than the land below tree line. Again, Leave No Trace advocates for the pack-it-out method. Lawhon recommends not making camp above tree line. Digging a cathole is the last resort. "If you have to do it, move a big rock and dig under that large rock, rather than plunking your trowel down on delicate vegetation," he said.

If you need to pee above tree line, urinate on rocks or bare ground, not on plants.

Desert

"We advocate shallower catholes, in the two- to six-inch range," Lawhon said. Keeping the waste higher in the soil horizon maximizes decomposition. Look for organic soil under trees and avoid cryptobiotic soil crust, which is extremely fragile.

Winter



Above tree line and in winter, it's best to pack it out. Otherwise, you're leaving behind frozen waste for the next visitors.

Leave No Trace outlines three options for solid waste, in order of preference. First, pack it out. This is the preferred option, since poop can remain frozen in winter (which means you won't have to deal with any odor). Second, attempt to find a snow-free area like a tree-hole where you can actually dig. Third, dig a snow cathole.

"The key is, you've got to look at your map and make sure you're not dumping near a creek," Lawhon said. And keep in mind that if you choose the third option, you're throwing LNT objectives three and four (aesthetics and decomposition) out the window. If you're on solid ice, packing it out is best.

Come spring, no one wants to find your semi-frozen waste on the trail. So, if you do choose the third option, do it off travel ways and away from water sources. Choose a spot with sunshine, make a hole, cover your business, and let the snow melt dilute it. Snow works well as T.P.

As for peeing, cover any spots of yellow snow and pee away from water sources.

River Canyons

In river canyons where you may not be able to get 200 feet away from the water, Leave No Trace advises to urinate directly in the river for dispersal ("dilution is the solution") and to pack out all feces. "Packing out your shit is part of the culture, and I hope that becomes part of the culture in other user groups, too," Lawhon said. Some paddlers and rafters carry a portable, reusable toilet system that they empty out later, or a poop tube.

In a few areas with low-volume rivers, it is illegal to urinate in the river, so follow the local guidelines. In those cases, it is recommended that liquid waste be dispersed away from camp and well above the high water line.

Tent Bound

For any circumstance under which you're confined to your tent, you're going to need a receptacle, like your homemade poop tube or pack-it-out bag and container, or a water bottle can serve as last resort (here's a use for those retired BPA-leaching bottles; label well). When urinating, aim very carefully, with the bottle's opening as close to your body as possible (ladies, use that nifty feminine funnel to ease the process).

For number two situations, if you have no poop tube, this is your opportunity to use that extra wag bag/pack-it-out kit you've surely remembered to pack. Obviously, since you're in your tent instead of on natural terrain, the method is a little different. You're going to have to slip the plastic bag over your hand and play catch, or use the coffee filter you've brought with your poop tube. No kit? You can use your spare water bottle, hold it close and aim carefully, adding it to your pee, and then dig and bury when the opportunity presents itself. Basically, make your water bottle a makeshift poop tube. An appealing thought? No. Necessary in emergencies? Perhaps.

Finding Your Comfort Level



A toilet in California's Sierra Nevada. (Photo credit: Howard Kern)

In dealing with your waste outdoors, it's important to remember Leave No Trace's overarching advice: find someplace along the continuum, in between trailhead toilets and poop tubes, where you feel comfortable. If you're not willing to pack out your waste, some incredible outdoor spots will be off-limits to you. However, many others are easily within your reach, so long as you dig an appropriate cathole.

Can't stomach the thought of carrying around your dirty T.P.? Well, you can bury it, so long as you understand it might be there a long while, and really didn't belong there in the first place.

Ultimately, respect the proper practices, check with area land managers before your trip, and do your part to keep the wilderness pristine. Meyer, whose book was the first to truly be frank in explaining the necessity of proper backcountry disposal, sums it up well. "Unfortunately, I think we can expect ever-tightening regulations unless, as individuals, we jump up and take the initiative to learn how to live gently alongside Mother Nature."

Even if it means having to pick up your own poo once in a while.

For more information

[Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics](#), Principle #3: [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)

[Leave No Trace: A Guide to the New Wilderness Etiquette](#) by Annette McGivney

[How to Shit in the Woods: An environmentally sound approach to a lost art](#) by Kathleen Meyer

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Trail Tales



May 1, 2014

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2014
by Joan Wolf



The meeting was held on April 10 at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church. President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

GUESTS: Steve Andreson ('05 Rubicon), Phil Green & Emily Wafer ('01 JK), Shayne Halter ('70 Bronco), VT Huelskamp, Matt Kucenski, Adam Lucero, Alex Lucero, Brandon Moss ('13 Rubicon), Gordon Rowley, Terry Scruggs (Raptor), Andy & Rhonda Townes ('06 Rubicon), Richard Zarobsky ('14 Wrangler).

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Berglund, Jeff Boggs, Jennifer Chapin, Craig Courtright, Kevin Cox, Bill & Chris Dressler, Leon Duggar, Terry & Lucille Ellis, Robert Gill, NaDeen Jackson, Ed Kausche, Paul & Michelle Lucero, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Dixon Patrick, Bob & Carol Provance, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy, Mike & Linda Sells, Ken Tinker, Donnie Walker, Mark Werkmeister, Frank G. Whiston, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Joan Wolf.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf. March meeting minutes were accepted as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick. Dixon reported a balance of \$1,989.48.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar. Leon explained the points system. No fines were assessed.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs. In addition to the trips noted below, Jeff is leading four Jemez runs in June and July. Some are exploratory; all are on the MVUM (Motorized Vehicles Use Map). Guests may contact the trip leader to sign up for a run. They'll then be on the mailing list for updates.

PAST EVENTS:

March 15 – NMOHVA (New Mexico Off-Highway Vehicle Alliance) Meeting – Mark Werkmeister. NMOHVA celebrated its 10th anniversary with a meeting followed by cake and sandwiches. The lawsuit against the Santa Fe NF travel management decision is still underway. NMOHVA will make a final response and then the case goes to the judge.

March 30 – Cabezon Peak – Jeff Boggs. Great weather, 7 vehicles, visited Indian ruins.

April 10 – Meeting at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

April 12 – Manzano Mountains – Cliff Meier. Leave from Sandia Ranger Station on Hwy 14 or meet at Village of Manzano. Will visit interesting places.

April 26 – 4x4 101 – Cliff Meier/Mark Wolf. There will be educational talks on four-wheeling topics and also demos/driving. Meet at Cedro Peak Group Camping area. Cliff talked to the Forest Service about the plans. Following tonight's meeting, Jennifer Chapin will lead a roundtable on Personal and Vehicle Preparation before a run.

May 1-3 – Hole in the Rock UT – Keith Jurey. Contact Keith if interested. So far, those planning to attend are Cliff, Leon, and Jeff Boggs.

May 3 – Jemez Mountains – Frank G. Whiston. This will repeat a trip Frank led last summer. Contact him if interested.

May 8-15 – Moab & Green River UT – Cliff Meier. Contact Cliff for info.

May 17, 5 pm – Meeting at Don Roy's house. Bring a potluck dish, lawn chair, and table setting. Drinks are provided.

May 31 – Gordy's Hill – Don Roy. Don isn't sure which trails he'll run but they will be in the 'Hard' category. Bob Provance mentioned there is possibly a need for trail ratings.

June 8 – Ride for the Cure – Jennifer Chapin. Details will be posted when available.

Check the club website for other 2014 Events:

June 14 – NM4W Summer Picnic/Meeting, Oak Flat Picnic Area

July 10-12 – Top of the Rockies, Summer Quarterly, Salida CO

July 27-Aug. 2 – All-4-Fun, Silverton CO

Aug. 22-24 – Zuni Mountains Campout and Run

Sept. 6-7 – Mt. Blanca CO

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge, Las Cruces

TRIP LEADERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey. Jack was absent.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin. In addition to the 50/50 raffle, there was a 25% discount coupon from Clayton Offroad and a deck of cards from Master Pull. Winners were Ilene Rodacy (\$35 cash), Phil Green (Clayton coupon), and Emily Wafer (cards).

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston. Some Gallery albums are now available in a back-door way. Trip leader can copy a URL and send to a guest. If you want to share GPS tracks, send to Frank and he'll upload.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy. Don helped Frank with the Promotion section. The mobile phone site has been disabled due to lack of interest.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy. Trip reports are always welcome. Phil can grab photos from the web so it's not necessary to attach photos.

4WD HARDWARE CLUB REWARDS PROGRAM – Frank G. Whiston. Frank explained this opt-in program, in which 3% of sales go back to the club.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **2014 Summer Quarterly in Salida, CO.** Seventeen registrations have been received. There is a link on the SWFWDA website.
- **Summer Picnic/Meeting, Oak Flat Picnic Area, June 14.** Motion was made and approved to allow \$250 for picnic costs. This is to cover the picnic site reservation fee (\$75), the main dish, drinks, and paper products.
- **Tank Trap trail.** Don is pursuing the issue of needing insurance for a club run.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **501c3 status.** Frank G. Whiston said there is Game & Fish grant money available next year for trail maintenance. However, IRS status of 501c3 is required for grant eligibility. Currently, NM4W is incorporated and a nonprofit with the state of New Mexico. Paul Lucero belongs to another group pursuing 501c3 and said the cost is \$1800, plus \$200 to expedite. It's a complicated, lengthy process and his group has a pro bono attorney helping. Donnie Walker will seek more info from a relative, an IRS employee. More research is needed.
- **Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association.** Jennifer Chapin and Jeanne Meier participated in a telecom last week. No one wants the association to disband. However, no one has volunteered to be an officer. There are 12 clubs (down from 35) and 20 individual members. President David Teague is drafting changes to the SOPs and bylaws and will mail them out soon. David thinks that everyone (not just the club representatives) who attends a meeting should be allowed to vote. As webmaster, Jennifer Chapin is trying to keep the Facebook page current.
- **New Members voted in:** Adam Lucero, Richard 'Z' Zarobsky

The Rodacy's were thanked for providing refreshments.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:57 pm.

**check out the calendar on
the web site – it is
continually updated and
has all of the contact
information you need!**



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

Starting this month, there will be plenty of runs scheduled for this summer. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the runs by participating in them. If you are new to 4X4s or are new to the area, these runs are an excellent opportunity to gain experience in our sport or the general area. As with past years, we are still in a severe drought and there is a real potential that the national forests, i.e., the Jemez may be closed again this year. So, if you want to explore these areas do it early, don't wait until later in the summer or you may miss out. Most of the runs in the Jemez are on Forest Roads where stock vehicles do fine. There are still several runs that need leaders; sign up it's not that hard! One is a Jemez run in September that the club is hosting for several wheelers from Colorado. Let's show our northern neighbors we can be good hosts!

On April 26 we held the first practical 4X4 101 class. See the write up later in the newsletter. There was a good turnout of both new and experienced club members. We are planning to hold a follow up class, there was too much to cover in a single class. A couple of topics for the follow on could be jacking (including the safe use of a high lift jack) and winching techniques. Please let Mark Wolf or Cliff Meier know of other topics that you like to have included.

I'd like to take moment to encourage everyone to take some time and review the articles and documents included on the club website. There is invaluable "how to" information in the articles ranging from how to tune a CB to how to post pictures on the website and general club information in the documents.

The first summer meeting at a member's home will be the May meeting. I encourage everyone to come. The potluck dinners are great as is the company. After the normal business meeting, there will a round table discussion on selected wheeling subjects.

**LEAD A RUN -
THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL**



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Jack Dickey

There is no Environmental Affair report this month.

**Keep PUBLIC lands open
to the PUBLIC**



Like Us on Facebook

Contributed By Jennifer Chapin



Like us on facebook



If you are a facebook user and would like to know more about events in the southwest check out the new Southwest 4 Wheel Drive Association facebook page. You can find a link on the website at www.swfwda.org or <https://www.facebook.com/swfwda>. You can also search SWFWDA on facebook.



First 4x4 101 Class – A presenter’s View By Cliff Meier

On April 26 the club held its first 4X4 101 practical class. The class was held at the Cedro Group Camping area starting at 9:00am. There were 11 vehicles with 16 people attending. Of the 16 we had 5 guests, 1 applicant and several new members. Overall the weather was kind to the group with only a little breeze blowing. There was a mixture of 4X4 types, from Jeep Wranglers, a full size Chevrolet Blazer, a “really” full sized Ford F-150 Raptor pickup, a Jeep Cherokee, Jeep Liberty and a Nissan Xterra.

Mark Wolf kicked off the class with an overall introduction, followed by a discussion of Trail Etiquette led by Cliff Meier. After came an overall Safety discussion presented by Phil Rodacy. Jennifer Chaplin reviewed the discussion held after the April club meeting on Personal and Vehicle Pre-run Preparedness. This led into Jennifer’s discussion on Trailhead Preparation. Mark returned to lead a discussion on 4X4 Driving Techniques. The group then moved to the parking area where discussions were held on the vehicle modifications. Demonstrations were held with several 4X4s that were modified from mild to wild. Jack Dickey and Don Roy showed their “wild” mods to Jack’s Blazer and Don’s Jeep YJ. Don also demonstrated how lockers work. Cliff and Dixon discussed their less modified Jeeps. Cliff, Dixon and Jack also demonstrated what equipment they carried in the vehicles on a trail ride.



Lunch followed the vehicle demonstrations. After lunch most of the group proceeded to the “stair steps” on FR 542. At the “stair steps” Jack discussed and demonstrated selecting a “line” to use climbing the steps. Everyone was successful in climbing the steps, some easier than others. Following the steps, the group followed the trail around Cedro Peak and exited on old Highway 66 at Zuzak.

The next class is yet to be scheduled but a couple of topics, jacking & winching are being planned.



First 4x4 101 Class – An Attendee’s View By Shayne Halter

This was the club’s first 4X4 101 training session. We met at the Cedro Peak Group Campground at 9:00 am. The event was divided into three areas, which included discussions, vehicle and gear demonstrations, and a short trail ride. Approximately 15 folks attended and the vehicles ranged from ancient solid axle/leaf spring relics to brand new state-of-the art marvels and most everything in between. Configurations varied from purpose-built crawlers to new stock vehicles. Of course, the Jeeps outnumbered everyone by a wide margin.

The discussion began around 9:30 and covered important topics such as trail etiquette, safety, terminology, preparation at the trailhead, and driving techniques. An excellent array of information was presented, and based on the amount of note-taking; there probably wasn’t a person present who didn’t come away with some helpful, new data. Special thanks go out to Jennifer, Cliff, Phil and Mark for leading the discussions. 4-wheeling involves lots of heavy equipment, acute angles and hot spinning parts. These club members imparted expert knowledge, which no doubt will enhance safety and success on future runs.

The vehicle demonstrations involved invaluable displays of hubs, axles, lockers, transfer cases, suspension, and gear. As with the discussions, most everyone came away with modification ideas, or a list of items to add to their recovery/survival kit. Don, Cliff, Phil and Jack provided superb demonstrations of their vehicles and equipment.

Next came the short trail ride in the Cedro Peak area. We drove from the campground to the stair steps, where we practiced ledge climbing techniques and line selection. This gave many of us an opportunity to test our rigs’ capabilities and our driving skills. Due to varying difficulty and a wide range of available lines, the steps provided an excellent training environment for a variety of vehicles and drivers. Jack and Cliff did a fantastic job spotting and presenting timely techniques to ensure safety and keep drive trains intact. Following the stop at the steps, we proceeded east on trail 542, exiting near Tablezon.

Overall, this was a hugely successful event. Many who attended (especially guests) had a rare opportunity to get guidance and valuable information from seasoned experts. There was also a chance to look closely at vehicle modifications, demonstrations and time-tested gear. A huge thanks goes out to those mentioned above and others who took the time to organize this event and share their knowledge.



4x4 101 Training Session Outline

Contributed by Jennifer Chapin

The 4x4 101 training session will provide basic information with discussions, vehicle and equipment demonstrations followed by a short rails ride.

The class will be in the Cedro Peak area, either at the exit air up lace at the end of the normal run or the group picnic area.

The morning sessions in the morning would cover;

Discussions:

1. Introduction – **Mark Wolf**
2. Trail Etiquette – **Cliff Meier**
 - a. Drive carefully/safely.
 - b. Drive slowly.
 - c. Limit loud noises (radios, gun your engine, spin your tires, use your horn only if needed, etc.).
 - d. When stopping pull over, do not block the road/trail.
 - e. Uphill has the right away (it's the law in Colorado) unless it is unsafe to do so.
 - f. Pull over for bikes horses, hikers. Shut off your engine for horses and pack animals.
 - g. Avoid crossing streams unless there is no choice. If you have to cross do it slowly making as little disturbance as possible).
 - h. If someone overtakes you, such as an ATV or motorcycle pull over a let them pass.
 - i. Control your pets at all times. Not everyone is a dog lover and most do appreciate rover's help eating lunch. Don't let them bark or chase wildlife.
 - j. Don't switch around in line.
 - k. Stay on the road/trail.
 - l. No drinking on the trail, save it for home or camp.
 - m. Know the state vehicle licensing requirements
 - n. Know the Forest Service/BLM/State rules.
 - o. Be aware of your passenger's scare factor (it's OK to get out and walk)
 - p. Be courteous to all.
3. Safety – **Phil Rodacy**
 - a. Overall
 - b. Around a winching operation
4. Review of Personal and Vehicles Preparedness Lists (before the run) that was discussed at the Apr meeting. – **Jennifer Chaplin**

5. 4X4 Terminology Review (let's all speak the same language) – Mark Wolf
 - a. Overall
 - b. Parts
 - c. Modifications
 - d. ?
6. Preparation at the Trailhead – **Jennifer Chaplin**
 - a. Air down
 - b. Driver's meeting
 - i. What is covered
 - ii. Sign in
 - iii. ?
 - c. Duties of the Leader and Tail Gunner
 - d. ?
7. Driving Techniques – **Mark Wolf**
 - a. Low and Slow (use low range and go slow).
 - b. Know your vehicle limitations and yours.
 - c. Rocks and other high points
 - d. Use a spotter, trust your spotter.
 - e. Get out of your vehicle and scout ahead.
 - f. Climbing ledges
 - g. Crossing water
 - h. Driving uphill
 - i. Driving side hills
 - j. Blind curves
 - k. Crossing a log
 - l. Crossing large rocks
 - m. Getting high centered
 - n. Anticipate (be in low range before you need it)
 - o. Driving downhill
 - p. Parking on a steep hill
 - q. Passing on narrow shelf roads
 - r. Gullies and washouts
 - s. Ravines
 - t. Sand
 - u. Dust and washboard roads
 - v. ?

Demonstrations: - **Don Roy, Cliff Meier, Phil Rodacy, Jack Dickey and Jennifer Chaplin**

1. Use several vehicles and go over their modifications, equipment carried, etc.
2. Air down/air up (Why?)
3. Jacking

4. Winch safety (safety around a winching activity, save actual winch operations for another session)
5. ?

Trail Ride:

1. Proceed to stair steps, demo climbing ledge, picking a line, etc.-
2. Winching - **Dixon Patrick**
3. Proceed to the lower valley to straddle the ruts, etc. Take the connector trail down to the valley for a little experience going down the small ledges.
4. Maybe take turns strapping a vehicle up the ledges on the connector trail.
5. ?



4x4 101 Pre-Run Preparations

Contributed by Jennifer Chapin

The lists below identify things that you should have before you leave on a trail run. They are not meant to be all inclusive; you may want to add more depending on your needs. This may seem like too much stuff but remember you can be out in a remote area where the nearest help is many miles away and you may need to walk in all types of weather and terrain to get help. You are not in town where help is close by or a phone call away (**most areas where we run do not have cell phone coverage**). Specific vehicle modifications such as lifts, skid plates, winches, lights, etc are a whole other subject to be covered on another day.

1. Personal

- a. Sun Screen and chap stick
- b. Walking/hiking shoes (**flip flops or minimal type town shoes are not appropriate in the wild**)
- c. Extra socks and clothes appropriate for the variety of weather in New Mexico
- d. Rain gear, extra clothes, hat, gloves (**in the mountains the weather may change quickly**)
- e. Toilet paper and trowel
- f. First aid kit with Aspirin or Tylenol
- g. Water (more is better, at least a gallon per person)
- h. Food (both lunch & **emergency**)
- i. Candles, matches or lighter
- j. Insect repellent
- k. Cellular phone or Satellite Phone / Hand Held CB Radio / Hand Held Ham Radio
- l. Compass
- m. List of emergency contacts
- n. Space blanket
- o. Medicine if required

Be prepared to stay out overnight, it happens. Broken vehicle (s), lost, blocked trail, injured person that can't be moved until medical help arrives, etc.

2. Vehicle

- a. Tow points (**front & rear**)
- b. Roll bar (in all soft tops, removal hard tops & fiber glass tops)
- c. Heavy duty tow strap (no metal hooks, broken cast metal hooks can and have killed)
- d. GPS (with topo maps, available on-line - GPS depot.com)
- e. Extra batteries (for GPS, flashlight, etc)
- f. CB radio (either mounted or hand held. Mounted works best. Have a good tuned antenna; the antenna is 90% of the CB system. If you don't have a CB you will miss out on what is going on that includes safety warnings, history discussions, etc)
- g. Extra set of vehicle keys
- h. Fire extinguisher
- i. Replacement fuses (know what uses fuses and be prepared)
- j. Flashlight(s)
- k. Full tank of gas (don't show up at a run without a full tank or make others wait while you run to the gas station)
- l. Full size spare tire (inflated and know how to change it)
- m. Work gloves
- n. Rubber gloves (helps keep your hands clean)
- o. Maps of the area where you are going (a GPS is great but nothing replaces a good map and compass)
- p. Seatbelts for the driver and all passengers. (use them)
- q. Tools
- r. Assortment of nuts & bolts, hose clamps, & washers
- s. Tire deflator system
- t. Tire pressure gauge
- u. Tire plug repair kit
- v. Small compressor
- w. Working jack (make sure it fits the vehicle, if you have a lifted vehicle the stock jack may not work. A high lift jack may be needed.)
- x. Lug wrench
- y. Shovel and axe
- z. Jumper cables
- aa. Extra fluids (oil, brake fluid, auto transmission fluid, etc)
- bb. Radiator sealer
- cc. Trash bags
- dd. Small can of WD40

Store items in a tote bag or plastic container so they will be ready to load at home. Tie everything down in the vehicle so it will stay put in case of any sudden movements.

Important – Know how to use/operate your vehicle and equipment. On the trail is not the place to figure out your vehicle system, how the GPS, jack, etc operates. Also know your limitations! On the trail in a difficult situation is no place for a macho attitude. At times something can go wrong very quickly, ask for help.

Safety for us all on the trail.

Tow Strap? Recovery Strap for you 4x4? Please do not use straps with the metal hooks attached to them they are pressed steel and will come apart and can cause serious injury and/or death to someone. We are all on the trail to enjoy the outdoors and possible test the ability of our 4x4's. Let's all go home at the end of an enjoyable day.



Do Not Use!



**Use
With D-Rings**



These items are available online or at our local 4x4 shops



History of the Hi-Lift Jack (from their Website)

Contributed By Jennifer Chapin

Hi-Lift Company History The Bloomfield Manufacturing Company

The Bloomfield Manufacturing Company, established in 1895, is one of the oldest companies in the state of Indiana, and is the parent company to both the Hi-Lift Jack Company, and the Kant-Slam Company.

Founded over 100 years ago by the late Philip John Harrah, the

company is still owned and operated by the Harrah family and is currently under the leadership of the fourth generation of the Harrah family.



One of the first products invented by our founder and manufactured by the company was the combination Anvil-Vise-Drill tool. Another early product was the Kalamity Kar Kit, which held supplies that a car owner of that era might need during a motoring trip. The kit contained a pail to hold gasoline, a siphon to transfer gasoline, a steel tow strap and a waterproof sheet to keep the driver clean while working under his car. Mr. Harrah also invented many other products that met people's needs, including the casket display cart, the folding tea wagon, and the seven-use hammer-hatchet-wirecutter-pliers tool.

The Hi-Lift's predecessor was invented in 1905 and sold as the Automatic Combination Tool. The original jack was commonly known as the Handyman or Shepherd's Jack, and years later it was renamed the [Hi-Lift Jack](#). Our current product line includes the [Handle-All](#) multi-functional tool with telescoping handle and 4 full-sized implements; [Slide-N-Lock Tie-Down System](#) - an extruded

aluminum rail and locking pin system for tying down cargo in pick-up trucks; the [Post-Popper](#) post puller; and the [Kant-Slam](#) Hydraulic Gate and Door Closer. But the [Hi-Lift Jack](#) remains our best-selling, most popular item.



[Watch a video](#) of Hi-Lift's history.



Cabazon Peak Area Ride March 30, 2014

by Jeff Boggs

Sunday, March 30th, 8:00 am, 7 4x4's met in San Ysidro, NM to do a club ride out to the Cabazon Peak area. Cliff and Jeanne Meier, and dog drove from the east mountains, as did Gregg Radtke and dog. Jennifer Chapin showed up with a new Frisbee for Gregg's dog. Jeff Boggs was the trail leader today. New member Alan Dooley was there in his 4 door JK. We also had two guests, who had filled out the applicant form on the NM4W web site. Brandon Moss, 4 door JK Rubicon, and Phil Green, 4 door JK, with his friend ,Emily. This was Phil's first time doing an off road trail ride.

The first thing we did is air down everybody to about 16 pounds tire pressure, and Cliff explained the reasons for doing this: better traction, smoother ride, and safer when driving on primitive backcountry roads. For those who did not yet have a way to air back up at the end of the ride, San Ysidro has a gas station with air station (it takes quarters).

We left San Ysidro and went 2 miles south on Hwy 550, turned on the Cabazon dirt road. This first stretch of off road is fast 2wd, but with great scenery, mesas, canyons, and arroyos. We turned north, going up the Pipeline Rd. There is a gas pump station at the turn. This is a fast 2wd road, but all this area is totally different if it is wet. These roads are nearly impossible to drive if it is raining; too much clay. These roads are either dusty or muddy, we got dusty, all day.

About three quarters of the way to Cabazon, we took a left, just past a cattle guard, onto a 2 track road. This was washed out and rough. When we got to a gate, about a dozen horses ran up to check us out, but the cattle didn't even look our way. We climbed toward base of the north end of Mesa Prieta and took a short break. Then it was over to one of the main roads nearer to Cabazon. We made time on BLM 1102 and headed for the Adobe ranch house (abandoned). Crossing the sandy arroyo, we headed upon top of a mesa. This road is rough and has a steep part that goes between two big boulders. After we all squeezed down through this part, it was lunch time, with a view!!!!

The weather was cool but not much wind, yet. After lunch, we turned around and retraced our trail back to the aforementioned narrow climb between the boulders. This was a good place to do a little 4x4 101 class on low range, slow, controlled 4x4ing. Cliff and Jeff gave some tips on how to use these 4x4 rigs to climb up a loose rock, narrow, steep climb with several alternating steps. Maybe not too hard for a seasoned off road driver, but to someone who has never had their new Jeep into low range, this was a test.



Everybody had come down this road, now it was "up Time". One by one we went up. It helped that everybody got out and watched as each driver tried to climb this steep part of the road. Cliff showed how a "spotter" is so important, especially when your 4x4 is pointed up and the driver cannot see the rocks and ledges right in front of the tires. Oh yeah, each rig had to make a "blind turn" at the top.



Everybody did real well, and realized how important low tire pressure improves traction. Go Slow, watch your spotter, and we even talked about using left foot brake, right foot accelerator, as a way to control your speed, in tight, difficult areas. This works for automatics. Working the clutch with the accelerator is the manual transmission trick. Emily got a little scared going through this tight climb. She had never been on anything close to a primitive, backcountry road. Once at the top she felt better. She said going down she could see where Phil was going, not so bad, but up, with no view of the road, that freaked her out. More rides

will make this more of a normal feeling.

After that area we headed down to the Ghost town of Guadalupe, and the mesa with the ruins on top. We met up with two vehicles; they stopped us and said if we were headed down to the Indian ruins, there was a horse with its leg stuck in a cattle guard. They turned around, scared that they might scare the horse, if they had tried to drive around it. We said we would go on out there and see what we could do. Luckily, there are ranchers living next to the ghost town ruins, and when Cliff spoke to them they were already helping the horse. We followed the ranch truck to the cattle guard and the horse was already free, with what the rancher said was just scrapes. Whew!!! Glad it wasn't a broken leg.



Parking at the ruins area, several of us hiked to the top, and checked out the kivas and the view. It was go back home time, so we made good time back to the pipeline road and all the way to San Ysidro. The weather was now windy and dirt was a blowing. We aired up at the gas station and said our goodbyes, until next ride. Great group, great day! Many more dirt roads out there to explore. As the weather warms, the NM4Wheelers will turn our attention to the mountains, so check the calendar for upcoming rides. Special

thanks to Jennifer for all the gate closing duties. See ya out there, in low range!!!



One Thing a Jeep Really Doesn't Need

Contributed by Jennifer Chapin



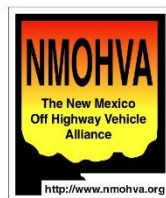
KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NM4W Officers

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Trail Tales



June 1, 2014

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2014
by Joan Wolf



The meeting was held on May 17 at the home of Don Roy. President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 6:27 pm.

GUESTS: Steve Andreson & Karen Savage ('05 Rubicon), Phil Green & Emily Wafer, Shayne Halter ('70 Bronco), Tony Knoll (Dodge Ram Powerwagon), Scott Jackson (spouse of NaDeen), Andy & Rhonda Townes ('06 Rubicon).

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeff Boggs, Jennifer Chapin, Jack & Cathy Dickey, Alan Dooley, Leon Duggar, NaDeen Jackson, Sandra McIntosh & Dave Plaster, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Dixon & Zeldia Patrick, Phil & Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy, Mike & Linda Sells, Glenn & Rebagayle Vialpando, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

Guest speaker: Jennifer Cramer, Planner from the Santa Fe National Forest, gave a presentation on the Forest Plan revision now underway. The Forest Plan is a long-range vision for the forest and includes standards and guidelines. The plan cannot authorize specific actions or change boundaries, laws, or policies. The plan revision process kicked off with recent public meetings and will take 3-4 years. The Forest Plan will not change road closures or the TMP (Travel Management Plan) per se. However, if public input makes the case for motorized recreation, there could be guidance to develop special recreation areas. This could be similar to the BLM designating Gordy's Hill as a special recreation area in their resource management plan. NM4W members were encouraged to sign up for email alerts and take information sheets.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf. April meeting minutes were accepted as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick. Dixon reported a balance of \$1,872.90.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar. Leon explained the points system. He waived a fine for Keith Jurey for wrong turns on Hole in the Rock. It appeared that several rock cairns had been purposely scattered so the group restored cairns where possible.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs. Jeff and others reported on past and future runs.

PAST EVENTS:

April 12 – Manzano Mountains – Cliff Meier. Nice day driving on old logging roads. Thanks to Mother Nature, the road grader's work is being undone. Dr. Bob's rocky road is getting rocky again.

April 26 – 4x4 101 – Cliff Meier/Mark Wolf. There were 14-16 people at the kickoff 101 training. Both novice and seasoned drivers can learn about vehicle technology, driving techniques, safety, etc. Next session, June 28, will cover hi-lift jacks and winching.

May 1-3 – Hole in the Rock UT – Keith Jurey. Great trip attended by Keith Jurey, the Duggars, Jeff Boggs, and Brandon Moss and his father. Brandon improved his driving skills and confidence in a few short days.

May 3 – Jemez Mountains – Frank G. Whiston. There were many fallen logs on the trail.

May 8-15 – Moab & Green River UT. No report.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 31 – Gordy's Hill – Don Roy. The trails will be tough.

June 14 – NM4W Summer Picnic/Meeting, Oak Flat Picnic Area. Eat ~5 pm, meeting follows. Bring a dish to share and a chair to follow the shade. Club will provide hamburgers or sandwiches depending on fire restrictions. Vote for 4-Wheeler of the Year in response to Cliff's email or by paper ballot at the picnic. Watch website for possible easy run prior to the picnic.

June 15 – Jemez – Jeff Boggs. Easy run somewhere in the Jemez. Might be a forest road on the TMP that Jeff is not familiar with.

June 22 – Jemez – Jeff Boggs. Jeff is willing to tailor the run based on who shows up.

June 28 – 4x4 101, Session 2 – Cliff Meier/Mark Wolf. Cedro Peak area, topic will be vehicle recovery.

July 5, 5 pm – Meeting at the home of Sandy McIntosh & Dave Plaster. Bring a potluck dish, lawn chair, and table setting.

July 6, July 13, and Aug 17 – Jemez – Jeff Boggs. More fun in the Jemez.

July 10-12 – Top of the Rockies, Summer Quarterly, Salida CO – Jennifer Chapin. 13 vehicle registrations so far. Cliff is setting up a variety of trail runs.

Check the club website for other 2014 Events:

July 26-Aug. 2 – All-4-Fun, Silverton CO

Aug. 22-24 – Zuni Mountains Campout and Run Fun weekend hosted by Jeeps West. Base camp is McGaffey Wildlife Center, south of Ft. Wingate.

Aug. 23 – Mt. Taylor Easy Ride (need Trail Leader)

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge, Caballo Lake NM

TRIP LEADERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey. Comments were submitted on the TMPs of the Magdalena and Sandia Ranger Districts. No Forest Service response to date. These comments keep the NM4W name and stance on the radar. We have the opportunity to request OHV use in the Forest Plans of the Santa Fe and Carson forests. The agencies are supposed to take into account local knowledge and public input.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin. There were no raffle tickets so Jeff Boggs accepted donations for NMOHVA. Jennifer had shirts and license plates available.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston. Frank created a video/slideshow of Hole in the Rock (look under Gallery) so the public can get a glimpse of a club run.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy. Don's been doing some work in the background dealing with bogus guest applications.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy. Phil does a great job on the newsletter (this is an unsolicited remark). Read the newsletter! It includes fun stuff such as how to cook on a manifold and other topics not discussed at meetings.

4WD HARDWARE CLUB REWARDS PROGRAM – Frank G. Whiston. The newest participant cards came to Frank so he'll mail them out.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **2014 Summer Quarterly in Salida, CO.** This will be a great event in the breathtaking Collegiate Peaks area.
-
- **Summer Picnic/Meeting, Oak Flat Picnic Area, June 14.** See Upcoming Events.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **A&E TV, Longmire show.** The film company requested 4WD vehicles for the show. The members who responded have not heard back.
- **Elections and dues.** New officers will be elected in July. Cliff will send out an email request for names (and new blood). Annual dues (\$35) are due July 31, followed by a 30-day grace period.
- **Trail rating system.** The officers are discussing this. More to come.
- **New Members voted in:** Steve Andreson, Phil Green, Andy Townes

Don Roy was thanked for hosting tonight's meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:30 pm.

**check out the calendar on
the web site – it is
continually updated and
has all of the contact
information you need!**



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

It's that time of year again, time sure seems to fly! Summer is upon us with the first summer potluck/meeting hosted by Don Roy. It was a great meeting with super food, thanks Don! See the minutes in this newsletter. This summer we have a bunch of events and other stuff planned. Be sure to check the club calendar on the website for what's coming up. Two of the recurring summer events are the selection of the NM4W of the year and election of officers.

The NM4W of the Year election will be held starting this month through the picnic in June. This year we will be using the on-line anonymous voting process on the club website. Please use it to cast your vote. To do so, go to the website and on the top right hand side is a tab labeled "Poll". Select that tab and cast your vote. If for some reason you can't use the website, there will be "voting can" at the picnic. The results will be announced at the July meeting.

The July meeting is when we elect the club officers for the next fiscal year. I strongly encourage you to consider running for an office. We tend to have the same folks in office year after year; it's always good to get some new blood. If you are interested, go to the club SOPs located under the Documents tab on the website for the descriptions of the offices and their duties.

The second field session of 4X4 101 will be held on June 28 in the Cedro Peak Group campground area, same place the first session was held. This session will cover jacking, recovery and winching with practical exercises. See the calendar for details.

As was mentioned at the meeting this month, a club trail rating system is being developed. It is in draft and should be ready to be rolled out shortly. This is a difficult thing to do so that it is understandable and consistent for members from new to the sport to the experienced. The goal is to have the trail leaders rate their trails before the run so everyone knows what to expect and be properly prepared for the run.

Lastly, it's time to start the reminders to pay dues for next year. Dues are due starting July 31, \$35 for members and \$17 for associate members.

That's all for now, see you at the picnic!

**LEAD A RUN -
THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL**



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Jack Dickey

There is no Environmental Affair report this month.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC



Hole in the Rock Trail

By Jeff Boggs

I have wanted to do the Hole in the Rock Trail for many years. I had heard about it from some off road motorcycling buddies, who had ridden out to the end of the trail, back in the 80's and met up with the rest of their group at lake's edge. The rest of their group had boated down to the beach at the end of the trail, and they stayed there, camped out, fished, loaded the motorcycles onto the boat, and went back to Hall's Crossing.

Keith Jurey led this ride to Southern Utah. Leon and Marcia



Duggar, and their two girls, Brandon Moss and his father Wayne, and I showed up at Halls Crossing marina, on the east side of Lake Powell.

Our first night was in the park campground, and it was windy and cold. The next morning was the start of several very nice days. We were gassed up, and we drove back up the highway to the dirt road that starts the Hole in the Rock Trail. After airing down, we began our journey down this graded road and stopped at an old rusted halftrack truck. It had seen better days!



As we proceeded out into this country, the road became rougher and rougher, and we slowed accordingly. Brandon was new to 4Wheeling and he was nervous, but took direction well on ledges and steep slick rock descents. His confidence grew the further we went. This trail is rugged, and cairns and metal posts were not always easy to follow. We spotted each other when needed. There were wonderful views of the Henry Mountains and Navajo Mountain. When up high, there is cell phone service.

We met two Jeeps on their way out, and they said we had the area to ourselves. But a little later several people on ATVs caught us and

they went ahead.

Keith planned for us to camp at the "Alcove", a large, flat area just off the trail, just before the ascent up Grey Mesa. We pulled in there about 4:30 pm, and set up camp. This area is well protected by the surrounding sandstone hills, but the weather was great and I even slept outside on a cot, others had tents and Keith just slept in his Jeep.

The ATVs came back by and went back the way we came in??? Not sure where they camped or why they turned around. We had decided to leave Leon's trailer at this great camp spot and drive out to the end of the trail and back for the next night's camp.

The next morning we broke camp and drove out about 9:00 am. Keith, Leon and Jeff took a look at the next section of the trail, up Grey Mesa, the evening before, and we found out why the ATVs had turned around. The steps up the side of Grey Mesa had given them pause. Not ATV friendly. We only saw one set of tracks near the top, and the rest of their group did not attempt the off camber steps.

But, full size 4x4's can do this section; articulation helps level out this area. Careful wheel placement, with good spotting will get you to the top. The girls were real "mountain goats". They loved climbing around on the slick rock.



Once on top of Grey Mesa, it is dirt roads for a while. Lots of beautiful flowers covered this mesa and the view into the Great Bend of the San Juan River, just before it enters Lake Powell, was well worth a stop. We began our approach to the decent off Grey Mesa, and down the Chute. After descending the Chute, the trail was tough to find in places as many of the Cairns were knocked down. Keith had to hike several times before proceeding. We wanted to stay on the trail. We found where to go and worked our way out to the end of the drivable portion of the Hole in the Rock Trail and got great views of Lake Powell and the actual Hole in the Rock Trail across the lake. This parking area afforded little good camping if any weather came in. We were glad to be headed back to the Alcove camp site. It took us 6 hours to get to the end of the trail that day, but since we had rebuilt many cairns and had some GPS way points, we were back to the campsite in 3 hours. The weather was still great, and we sat around talking about our great adventure, until about 10:00 pm, then it was time to get some rest. Another nice night in Utah. The Milky Way was breath taking.

The next morning, we got going around 9:00 am, to head back out to the pavement. This trip has been done in one day and two days, but three days is very relaxing and four days would give time to get in some good hikes. Pick your poison, it is all good. If the weather is good, camping at the end of the trail would be nice. Hiking down to the lake is 3 miles one way, but could be well worth it.

Our trip out was good, although my whip CB antenna snapped off somewhere out there and I lost CB communication. I have since replaced it with an added spring to help it flex, and hopefully not break off.



Brandon had hung his rear diff cover on a rock and with the still stock cover, it peeled back just enough to cause a slight leak. He has since got a strong after market cover. Leon's trailer did well, and Keith did a great job leading us into and out of this amazing trail.



I highly recommend this trail, if you like to camp out and if you like rugged, long trails. You need at least 33 inch tires, a lifted 4x4, and a rear locker. It is rated hard, and parts are potentially dangerous, but just think about doing this trail in a covered wagon, on foot or horseback, driving 1000 head of cattle, and taking 6 months to do it.

We had it easy. Your vehicle needs to be in top shape, and bring tools and parts. A porta-potty or wag bag is needed as the norm is to pack out your trash and your waste.

We got back to the highway and my fuel light came on, around 100 miles from when I gassed up. Low range eats up gas, but we had brought 5 gallons extra and I still had about 4-5 gallons in my tank when I filled up again at Halls Crossing. TJs gas tank gauges are not all that accurate.

We had a great time and I would do this trip again.

There is talk of doing this trail next year. Either spring or fall would be great. Summer is too hot. There are many other jeep roads in this area that beg to be explored, so a week trip is the primo way to do this area. Jacob's Chair, Piute Pass, Blue Notch, Red Canyon roads, and others are adventures just waiting to happen.



Gordy's Hill You Can Follow Me, But Its Gonna Hurt

By Don Roy

This was my fourth trip to the Gordy's Hill area, east of Socorro, NM., where the easier trails are considered access roads to get to the good stuff. This area has the best tough trails within a day's ride of Albuquerque (not counting Puerco, which is mostly all private land). I enjoy trails that challenge my vehicle build level, which is two lockers, low gearing, good clearance, and 35" tires. When all of the vehicles on a tougher ride are of similar build, and the right trails chosen, everyone gets some adrenalin going, yet has minimal breakage, so the days go smoothly.

Temps were in the low 90's, but still 9 vehicles and maybe 15 people couldn't wait. Our fearless club leader Cliff Meier was in my passenger seat all day, braving the heat with my no doors, minimal top, and the windshield folded down driving style. All the vehicles were well enough equipped to handle the trails I had in mind. The terrain chosen for this ride is much harder than anything you will find in the Jemez area, necessitating the requirement of 'tougher trucks only' and Members Only.

We essentially did three trails over the day, plus some play time in the Play Area at the end. We started on 'Hidden Valley', then turned left onto 'Bad Hair Day', then last was 'Doug's Dilemma'. Each trail was progressively harder, and there were minimal go-arounds to skip anything. The trails were well suited to the vehicle level. I had been on the first two trails on last September's YCFMBIGH ride, but Jack Dickey, my Gordy's compass (knows where things are better than I), knew of Doug's Dilemma. Doug's was a great ride, mostly uphill with large boulders to crawl over. It was getting hot by then, too, but we all managed to get to the end.

We only had two breakages, both on Bad Hair Day, which oddly was the same place we had breakage on last year's ride. One was a broken track bar, the other a torn off tire valve stem. But both of these occurred at the same exact time, so the two ends of the 9 truck parade did repairs at the same time.

The off-the-trailers-and-Jeeps-on-dirt day started about 9:15AM, and we called a day and were back loading up about 3:45PM. The next YCFMBIGH ride will probably be in October at the earliest, to avoid the heat. The one photo here is of leaders on a milder section of the trail. See the many Gallery photos for a better feel of the day's adventure.



Car Engine Cooking

**By Paul Michael
Contributed by Jennifer Chapin**

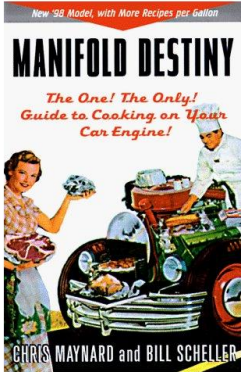
Ladies, gentlemen, start your engines. But only after you've loaded them up with sausages, chicken, crabs, Cajun shrimp and plenty of vegetables.

Car engine cooking will change the way you take road trips, forever. As I've stated in the past, I love to get extra use out of the products I buy. Around 15 years ago, I saw a documentary on British television about a guy who had wrapped some sausages in foil, placed them on a strategic part of his engine, and then took a 40 minute drive to his friend's house. When he got there, the sausages were perfectly cooked and a great end to a small journey.

How cool, I remember thinking. But as I couldn't drive at the time, I forgot all about it. Until last week. For some reason, sitting in my car at a red light smelling the grilling chicken of a nearby Chipotle reminded me of that story. And now I'm pleased and proud to present you with Car Engine Cooking, brought to you by the one and only source I could find on the subject...a wonderful book called Manifold Destiny.

MANIFOLD DESTINY - The One! The Only! Guide to Cooking on Your Car Engine!

Chris Maynard and Bill Scheller have a serious affinity with cars. Both experienced rally drivers, they must have worked up an appetite on the courses they drove. And as they are also both accomplished cooks, it seems only natural that a book on car engine cooking would be born.



The book is witty, concise and well-written. Well worth a read on any day. It also goes into more detail than I can recount here, covering everything from types of cars, food placement on engines, international VS domestic models and so on. What I can give you is enough to whet your appetite. You can purchase the book direct from Amazon by clicking the link below.

[Manifold Destiny: The One! The Only! Guide to Cooking on Your Car Engine!](#)

The basics - remember, it's not an exact science.

Chris and Bill advise that although car engines are all different, the principles are the same. So, how do you find the best places on your car engine to place your chicken, your veggies or your succulent piece of rainbow trout? Well, it all comes down to...your finger.

Get your car up to operating speed, or better yet take it for a drive around the block for five minutes, and then bring it back to the garage and lift the hood. Now, finger at the ready, you start quickly touching various parts of the engine (nothing plastic...that will never get hot enough to cook anything). And by quickly touching, it's the kind of swift stab that means your finger feels the heat but you don't give yourself a third degree burn. (If you're feeling really wussy, try an infrared thermometer). Usually, the hottest part of the engine will be the exhaust manifold. On older cars, the top of the engine block will be a good, sizzling place.

You're not just looking for the hottest parts of the engine. Like any kind of cooking, different foods require different temperatures. A very hot part of the engine will be great for thick meat, a cooler part good for veggies or fish. Or, if you're traveling many hundreds of miles, you may want to use the cooler part to slow-cook your meat. Mmmm. As always, this is trial and error.



NEVER let the food interfere with the engine's moving parts

We want a great meal here, not a wrecked engine. And who would want to explain to the local mechanic why there's a piece of rump roast stuck in the timing belt? Always choose places that are static, and ensure they are not going to move. The boys have put together this handy list of things to avoid.

Car engine cooking no-nos...

1 - Give the accelerator linkage a WIDE berth. It connects the gas pedal to carburetor or fuel-injection system and regulates the flow of fuel to the cylinders. Jam this and either your car won't start, or worse, it won't stop!

2 - Don't block the airflow. You'll suffocate the engine.

3 - Avoid yanking wires. Or pulling wires. Or forcing a food-package to fit. Basic rule of thumb...if you have to force it, you shouldn't put it in.

4 - Place food with the engine OFF. Seems like an obvious rule, but if you don't want a nasty injury, follow this advice.

5 - Avoid foods with lots of liquid. Foil-wrapping a meal with lots of liquid could result in unwanted goop all over your engine. And that's not good for it.

The FOIL CONE test

This is done to give you a good idea of how much room you have in your new 'oven', and cannot be skipped. Simply make a cone of aluminum foil about 5 inches high, place it on the injector housing, then shut the hood. Now, when you open it, how much of that cone has been crushed? If it's a lot, your car engine will only be good for cooking slimmer meals, like fish and strip steak. If it hasn't been touched, you'll need extra foil to stop your packages from moving around.

Preparing your meal

Foil is about to become your new best friend. Grab a sheet of foil large enough to comfortably cover the food/ingredients. You don't want to be cheap on foil here, more is better. Wrap the foil around, creating a package, and crimp the foil tightly. You want a seal all around the food. And then do it again. And then again. Triple-wrapping in foil is the only way to ensure a tight, sealed, safe package.

Editor's note: A burrito placed on the manifold will go from refrigerator temperature to "just right for eating" in 20 to 30 minutes. Much longer and it'll start to burn.



How They Make Jeep Bodies

Contributed by Phil Rodacy

Ever wonder how your Jeep was assembled? Here's a link to a short video that shows how they make a body every 77 seconds – 830 per day.

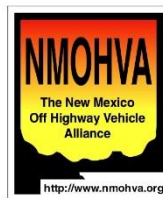
<http://www.microsoft.com/windowseembedded/en-us/internet-of-things-customer-stories.aspx?id=1>

KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NM4W Officers

<p>President Cliff Meier 281-3704 pr@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Leon Duggar 235-8988 vp@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Joan Wolf 856-8539 se@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Dixon Patrick 271-9133 tr@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Jennifer Chapin 305-333-3375 pc@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank G. Whiston 280-7922 hi@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Jack Dickey 505-861-0526 de@nm4w.org</p>	<p>SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net</p>

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Trail Tales



July 1, 2014

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

June 14, 2014
by Joan Wolf



The meeting was held on June 14 at the Oak Flats Picnic Ground. President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm (in spite of disrupting some people's pie time).

GUESTS: Ronnie Caton ('97 Cherokee & '14 Rubicon), Shayne & Susan Halter ('70 Bronco), Tony & Bonnie Knoll (Dodge Powerwagon), A.J. Sanchez. Cliff noted that club membership is now 79 member families. Half of those have been members for less than two years. We welcome guests and new members and their fresh ideas and energy.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Andreson, Jeff & Paula Boggs, Devin Cannady, Jennifer Chapin, Guy & Carolyn Conway, Craig Courtright & Vicki Medlin, Jack & Cathy Dickey, Bill & Chris Dressler, Leon Duggar, Robert Gill & Karen Morant, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Dixon Patrick, Dave Plaster, Bob & Carol Provance, Jeff & Lauri Rector, Phil & Illene Rodacy, Chris Sears, Mike & Linda Sells, Bob Telepak, Ken & Diane Tinker, Andy Townes, Glenn & Rebagayle Vialpando, Don & Sarah Walker, Donnie Walker, Mark Werkmeister, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Frank G. & Beth Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Tahoe Zahn & Debra Morgan, Richard & Helen Zarobsky.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf. May meeting minutes were accepted as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick. Dixon reported a balance of \$2,527.37.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar. Leon explained that five points are required for member eligibility. Leon and the Sheriff's posse were silent. No fines were levied.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs. Jeff encouraged everyone to watch the website calendar. You never know when a trip will pop up.

PAST EVENTS:

May 31 – Gordy's Hill – Don Roy. Jack Dickey said they ran Hidden Valley, Bad Hair Day, Doug's Dilemma and other challenging trails.

June 7 – Cat Mesa – Jennifer Chapin. There were 5 vehicles. Some parts of the trail had been graded; other parts had more erosion than in the past.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 15 – Jemez – Jeff Boggs. Easy run in the northwest section of the Jemez.

June 22 – Jemez – Jeff Boggs. Jeff will probably check out some new-to-him roads that are on the TMP.

June 28 – 4x4 101, Session 2 – Cliff Meier/Mark Wolf. Cedro Peak area, vehicle recovery is the topic.

July 5, 5 pm – Meeting at the home of Sandy McIntosh & Dave Plaster. Bring a potluck dish, lawn chair, and table setting.

July 6 and July 13 – Jemez – Jeff Boggs. More runs in the Jemez.

July 10-12 – Top of the Rockies, Summer Quarterly, Salida CO – Jennifer Chapin. 14 vehicle registrations to date. Cliff is setting up the trail runs.

July 26-Aug. 2 – All-4-Fun, Silverton CO

August 16, 5 pm – Club Meeting at the Duggars.

Aug. 22-24 – Zuni Mountains Campout and Run Fun weekend hosted by Jeeps West. Camp at McGaffey Wildlife Center, south of Ft. Wingate.

Check the club website for other 2014 Events:

Sept. 6 – Mt. Blanco & Medano Pass CO

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge, Caballo Lake NM

BE A TRIP LEADER

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey. Jack recently attended the Cibola National Forest's plan revision workshop in Socorro. During the round-robin discussion Jack stressed the need for a balance of recreation including motorized. The forest plan is important but it's the big picture. Jack will spend his energy staying engaged with the Travel Management Plan because it's more directly related to motorized use.

The Gila NF released their TMP on June 10. There was a big loss of roads; NMOHVA will appeal during the 45-day appeals period.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin. Jennifer had club-logo items for sale. Don Walker, an Associate member from Farmington, won \$74 in the 50/50 raffle.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston. There are many great photos from the Gordy's Hill run on the website.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy. Don was absent.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy. Phil appreciates articles — send anything of interest.

4WD HARDWARE CLUB REWARDS PROGRAM – Frank G. Whiston. The club has netted \$75 in the past six months due to member's opting in and using their 4WD Hardware cards for purchases.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Elections and dues.** Contact Cliff if interested in nominating or running for office. New blood is good! Elections will be held at the July 5 meeting. Annual dues (\$35) are due July 31, followed by a 30-day grace period. You may pay by Paypal, check, or cash.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Chile Challenge Raffle Tickets.** Dave Plaster is selling tickets for the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association's fall quarterly event. Raffle proceeds are a major funding source for the Association. The Chile Challenge website www.chilechallenge.org currently lists 25 trails, rated 1 thru 12. Camping is available at Caballo Lake State Park, Riverside Campground, on a first come - first serve basis.
- **New Member voted in:** Shane Halter

Joan Wolf was thanked for organizing the picnic. (Note: Thanks to Vicki Medlin, Rebagayle Vialpando, and other helpers.) Wow—58 attendees!

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:25 pm.

**check out the calendar on
the web site - it is
continually updated and
has all of the contact
information you need!**



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

Today, the second 4X4 101 class was held in the Cedro Peak area. The session covered high lift/farm jack use and winching, both with demonstrations with the attendees participating. Thanks to Jennifer and Dixon for leading the sessions. There were 10 members and guests and one visitor. There is an article in the newsletter written by one of the attendees.

On my way home from the training I passed the Sandia Ranger Station. On their sign out front was the notification that the Sandia and Mountainair Ranger Districts will be closed on Monday, June 30 because of the extremely high fire danger. During the training session we had a visit from a Forest Service patrol on a dirt bike. He reminded us that the forest will close and to practice fire safety during our training today. His visit was also a reminder

that the closure will be enforced. The good news was that so far the Jemez district will not close yet so hopefully our planned rides there should still be a go but before going, check the Jemez District website for the latest closure information.

Just a reminder, as of July 1 the next year's dues will be due, \$35 for members and \$17.50 for Associate members. You may pay at the meeting, PayPal (see the website) or by mail. Send mail payments to NM4W, PO Box 90154, Albuquerque, NM 87199-0154. Anyone not paying by the end of August (the end of the grace period) will revert to guest status. That's all for now, see you at the meeting or on the trail!

LEAD A RUN - THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Jack Dickey

There is no Environmental Affair report this month.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC



National Forest Revision

Contributed by Jennifer Chapin



... and we want to hear from YOU!

- The **Forest Plan** is an important document that provides **broad direction** for managing the forest, including land and water resources, recreational opportunities, wilderness areas, cultural values, and historic locations.
- In the **Assessment Phase** of the revision process, we review and document **current conditions and trends** for 15 topics covering ecological, social, economic, and cultural conditions.
- **YOUR** perspective is important. We invite you to participate in this process.

Is Santa Fe National Forest **important** to you?

How do you use it? What do you appreciate about it?

Why do you visit it? What changes have you seen?

Please visit www.fs.usda.gov/goto/santafeforestplan, choose "Get Involved," and fill out "User Values and Trends for the Assessment."

-OR-

Pick up the "User Values and Trends" form at any district office and fill it out. Return completed forms to the same office, or mail them to Santa Fe National Forest, 11 Forest Lane, Santa Fe, NM 87508

Please respond by July 31, 2014.

For more information: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/santafeforestplan

505-438-5442 • SantaFeForestPlan@fs.fed.us • 11 Forest Ln., Santa Fe, NM



6/9/2014



Web Administrator Report

By Don Roy

I missed the June Picnic and also have to miss the July 5th meeting, so I thought I'd provide a Web Report here. There are three things I'd like to mention that have come up since the May meeting.

First: The site has been recording the date people have joined since the start of this web site, May 7, 2011. I also went through all the newsletters between 2007 and 2011 to find who was voted in at each meeting and backfill dates for longer time members.

All this gathered information wasn't visible though, since I wasn't quite sure how to present it. After the change last March to the Profile display system, I realized each profile is now the perfect place to show a member's join date. Of 79 Memberships on record today, I still need join dates for 24 Memberships. If no Join Date shows in your Profile, please let me know so I can update the records.

Second: The calendar page had four category Tabs for individual items of Club Meetings, Other Meetings, Rides, and Events. In my opinion, so many Tabs made it harder for the average member to plan their NM4W future activities. I changed the Tabs to represent two groups rather than four, basically all Meeting type items (club, NMHOVA, etc.) are now under 'Meetings', and items using your vehicle are now under a combined 'Rides/Events' Tab.

Third: Prior to 2011, then Web Admin Glenn Bontly did all the data entry for the site, made all the changes, and as such could ensure a nice clean even look to the site. As you all know, this post-2011 web sites contents are all user entered. This means that 140 people across 79 Memberships can enter whatever they wish in Profiles, Rig pages, For Sale items, and officers in Galleries, Articles, and the Calendar.

In order to maintain a clean consistent look to the site, both for casual visitors and logged in members, I may at times have to alter some of the data you have entered. If anything other than minor changes (spelling, etc), I will usually e-mail you about what I have done. I hope you do not take these changes or suggestions personally. The NM4W web site is open to the Internet public 24/7/365 and is most often a person's first interaction with the club. A clean organized professional appearing site can only help the reputation of NM4W.



Winching 101 Training Class June 28, 2014

By Shayne Halter

This was the second NM4W 101 training class. The first class (held on 26 April) focused broadly on safety and equipment. The subject of this class was winching equipment and techniques. There were approximately 8 folks in attendance. In my opinion, if you have a winch, or are thinking about getting one, this was the lesson to attend. Winching is inherently dangerous, and many of us (including myself) carry the equipment around, but don't put much time into using it. Learning from club members with extensive experience in this area was indispensable.

Dixon started the lesson at 9:00 with about 1.5 hours of classroom instruction at the Cedro Peak Group Picnic Area. The training followed a lesson outline, focusing on safety, equipment, rigging and operation. Two other guides (by Superwinch and Milemarker) were also distributed, emphasizing winch selection and safe operation. For anyone who is not highly experienced in this area and did not attend the course, it would be a good idea to get copies of these publications. They are available online, and contain a wealth of information ranging from how to select the right winch for your vehicle to safe rigging and operation. Here are the links:

http://cdn.shptrn.com/media/mfg/4377/media_document/4398/WhatMostPeopleDontKnowAboutWinching.pdf?1289591024

<http://milemarker.com/team-orange/school-of-recovery>

Cliff and Leon also contributed valuable inputs based on their extensive experience.

Following the classroom instruction, we headed off to the stair steps for the practical phase. Jennifer gave an excellent lesson on how to use her High-lift Jack as both an off-road jack and a back-up winching device. Yes, you can spend lots of \$\$s on useful accessories for the High-lift jack. Following this, we winched Dixon's Jeep through the stair steps in a straight line, emphasizing correct rigging and safety. Next we used a snatch block for a 90 degree pull, using Leon's Bronco as an anchor. Finally, the snatch block was re-rigged for a double line pull, demonstrating the benefits of increasing pulling power. You can read about and watch videos on these techniques as much as you like, but nothing takes the place of watching and participating with real vehicles and equipment. Of course, upon lesson completion, we played around on the stair steps for a while. Leon did a great job as spotter.

This was another very successful lesson. I think most everyone learned something, and for someone like me with limited winching experience, it was extremely valuable. Huge thanks go out to Cliff, Dixon, Leon and Jennifer for giving a great lesson, putting wear and tear on their equipment and sharing their expertise with the rest of us!



Hi-Lift Jack Safety

Contributed By Jennifer Chapin

Training

- Read the manual before use. Do not allow anyone who has not read the manual, and/or does not understand the requirements, use the jack.

Spectators

- Do not allow bystanders around the jack or under the load supported only by the jack.

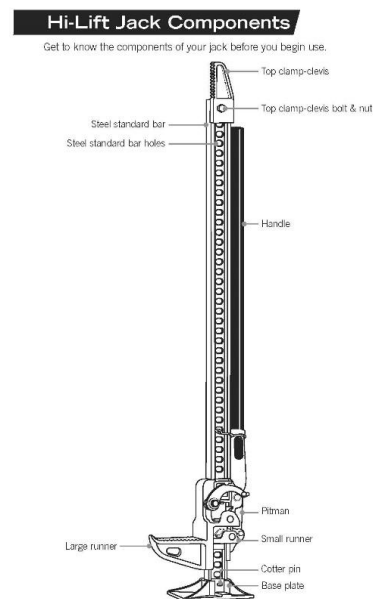
Inspection

- Inspect the jack carefully before each use. Ensure the jack is not damaged, excessively worn, or missing parts.
- Check the climbing pins to make sure that they are not worn or damaged.
- Check the steel standard bar to make sure that it is straight and that nothing is blocking the steel standard bar holes.
- Do not use the jack unless it is in good clean working condition.
- Do not use the jack unless it is properly lubricated.
- Using a jack that is not in good clean working condition or properly lubricated may cause serious injury (see Lubrication).

Chock and Block (Stabilize)

A chock is a wedge for steadying an object and holding it motionless, or for preventing the movement of a wheel. Chock the wheel opposite the end being lifted.

When you block a load, you secure and support a load that is being lifted. The block(s) or stabilizer(s) should have a weight capacity that is greater than the weight of the load which is being lifted. Do not use the jack to support the load





Did You Miss the Picnic?

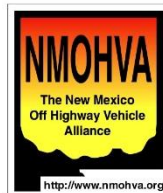


KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

NM4W Officers

<p>President Cliff Meier 281-3704 pr@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Leon Duggar 235-8988 vp@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Joan Wolf 856-8539 se@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Dixon Patrick 271-9133 tr@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Jennifer Chapin 305-333-3375 pc@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank G. Whiston 280-7922 hi@nm4w.org</p>
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Web Site Administrator Don Roy, wa@nm4w.org
 Newsletter editor, Phil Rodacy, ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



August 1, 2014

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

July 5, 2014
by Joan Wolf



The meeting was held on July 5 at the home of Dave Plaster and Sandy McIntosh. Dave and Sandy spoiled us with grilled hamburgers, dogs, and brats; refreshing beverages; and a shady back porch in the East Mountain pines. President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

GUESTS: Ray & Flora Diaz (2012 Wrangler Limited), Tony & Bonnie Knoll (Dodge Ram Powerwagon), Alex Bax (2013 Rubicon).

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark & Maria Berglund, Jennifer Chapin, Jack & Cathy Dickey, Erwin & Jeannie Greven, NaDeen Jackson, Ed & Lyn Kausche, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Dave Plaster & Sandy McIntosh, Chris Sears, Mark Werkmeister, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf. Meeting minutes from June were accepted as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick. Dixon was absent but sent in a report of \$2,416.34 in the club's treasury.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar. Leon was absent so Cliff explained the points system and the \$0.25 fine system.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs. Jeff was absent so run participants reported in.

PAST EVENTS:

June 15&22 – Jemez. No one remembered where exactly they went but it was fun.

June 28 – 4x4 101, Session 2 – Cliff Meier. Good info and practice on winching and hi-lift jack usage. Next topic might be first aid.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

July 6 & July 13 – Jemez – Jeff Boggs. Join Jeff and cool off in the Jemez Mountains.

July 10-12 – Top of the Rockies, Summer Quarterly, Salida CO – Jennifer Chapin. Join Jennifer and cool off in the Colorado high country.

July 26-Aug. 2 – All-4-Fun, Silverton CO. Ditto re cooling off.

July 27 – Mark's Casa Jeep Jam – NM4W is a long-time participant. It's a way to get our name out there. Vehicle display, NMOHVA booth, food.

Aug. 16, 5 pm – Meeting at Leon & Marcia Duggar’s – Bring a chair and dish to share.

Aug. 22-24 – Zuni Mountains Campout and Run – Contact Mark Wolf. Enjoy a great weekend in the beautiful Zuni’s. Hosted by Jeeps West. Camping (free!) available at McGaffey Wildlife Center, south of Ft. Wingate.

Aug. 23 – Mt. Taylor Easy Ride (need Trail Leader)

Sept. 6 – Mt. Blanca/Medano Pass – Mt. Blanca (hard run) will be led by Keith Jurey. Medano Pass (easy) will be led by Mark Wolf. Near Alamosa CO, Great Sand Dunes National Park.

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge, Caballo Lake NM. A new area and new trails. Register now, the hard trails fill up fast. Dave Plaster has raffle tickets for sale.

SUPPORT NM4W – BE A TRIP LEADER

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey. No response yet on comments submitted for the Magdalena and Cibola Ranger Districts. Jack encouraged everyone to look at the Tread Lightly website <http://treadlightly.org> for motorized vehicle issues. Mark Werkmeister and others are reviewing the June 11 decision by the Gila NF on the TMP to possibly develop an appeal. The Gila Forest Supervisor selected Alternative G which closes 2,500 miles of forest roads.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin. Tonight’s prizes were a tool box on wheels (won by Chris Sears) and \$31 cash in the 50/50 raffle (won by Ed Kausche). Jennifer had gear and stickers for sale.

HISTORIAN’S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston. Absent.

WEBMASTER’S REPORT – Don Roy. Absent.

EDITOR’S REPORT – Phil Rodacy. Absent.

4WD HARDWARE CLUB REWARDS PROGRAM – Frank G. Whiston. Absent.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Dues.** Annual dues (\$35 for full members, \$17.50 for associate members) are due by the end of the grace period, August 31.
- **Elections.** As there were no new nominations or volunteers, the current officers agreed to serve for the next club year. Motion was made and carried to accept the current officers for another term.

President: Cliff Meier
Vice President/Sheriff: Leon Duggar
Secretary: Joan Wolf
Treasurer: Dixon Patrick
Trip Chairman: Jeff Boggs
Program Chairman: Jennifer Chapin
Historian: Frank G. Whiston
Director of Environmental Affairs: Jack Dickey

NEW BUSINESS:

- **GenRight Nights.** NM4W member Mark Berglund is an authorized dealer and encourages everyone to check the website for upcoming events. Mark is trying to get raffle donations for the Chile Challenge.
- **New Member voted in:** Anthony (Tony) Knoll

Sandy and Dave were given a second round of applause for hosting the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:57 pm.

**check out the calendar on
the web site – it is
continually updated and
has all of the contact
information you need!**



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

The president is on vacation this month and not thinking about writing a newsletter article! So the only thing I want to say is to thank Jennifer and all the others who worked hard to make the Quarterly a success. We may have had a small turnout but the event itself was a responding success as a result of these folks efforts! One last thing; the continuing reminder to pay your annual dues by the end Aug.

Cliff Meier

**LEAD A RUN -
THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL**



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Jack Dickey

There is no Environmental Affair report this month.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC



2014 Southwest 4 Wheel Drive Association Summer Quarterly

By Jennifer Chapin



The event consisted for 3 days of trail rides and our group dinner on Friday night. Everyone had a great time together with a small group of about 25 people. Our group was 90% New Mexico 4-Wheelers members so it was like one of our local events but in Colorado.

There were some mechanical issues for some on the way to the event, on a pre-run, and on the trails. Back brakes on the Jeep on the way to the event. Did not even bring a Jeep so got a rental. A lost wheel on a pre-run, a ripped tire on the shelf road. Shower not working in the RV. Just some examples of why it is great to have others on the trail with you and not be out there alone. The best news is that nobody was hurt. A Special Thanks to Erwin Greven for his assistance to those of us that needed it.

With all our wonderful New Mexico 4-Wheelers Deputy Sherriff's there is a whole list of fines. I think those of us who have fines, it's more than just one. If you want to hear all these stories you will need to attend the August meeting. However, here is the list of us that will have fines. Jennifer Chapin, Cliff Meier, Mark Wolf, Dixon Patrick.

I believe that everyone had a great time enjoying the scenic mountain roads and historic sites such as the town of St. Elmo and some of us were lucky enough to see Elk and a Rocky Mountain goat. Look for the next issue of Drivelines for more pictures.





Erwin & Jeanie Greven

	<h2>Web Administrator Report</h2>
	<p>By Don Roy</p>

There is no Web Administrator's report this month.



Jemez Trail Ride July 6, 2014

By Jeff Boggs



The July 6, 2014 ride in the Jemez Mountains/ Santa Fe National Forest started at Walatowa Visitor's Center. We had a good showing. Jeff Boggs, trail leader showed up and soon, Anthony and son Anthony, drove up with their RZR side by side, Phil Rodacy and his friend Richard, Jennifer Chapin, in her new Raptor truck, Donnie Walker in his TJ, on 37's, Mark Werkmeister, in his Yellow Too Long 1981 CJ8, all parked and aired down. Guests showed up too. We had Jared Mosher and his wife Jill, and kids Jaid, and newest wheeler baby Jericho, in their Toyota Tacoma 4x4 truck, Ray Diaz, in his 4 door JK, KW Moore in his lifted 93 Jeep Grand Wagoneer, and Bill Reed in his red 79 CJ.

We all wanted to tour around on some of the freshly rained on forest roads in the western Jemez, and we were not disappointed. After getting off the Gilman tunnels road we explored several roads; Smokey Bear Hill road and FR 17. Had a great lunch!!!! Jennifer's Raptor came with Brisket and pulled pork sandwiches. I did not know that was a factory option. Ford finally does "Have a Better Idea". Jared had sold his Rubicon to get more room for his growing family, and he drove the stock Tacoma really well. He says smaller rocks look bigger on 30 inch tires!! It was muddy some places and this made some rocks slick and challenging. Bill Reed's CJ snapped a front



leaf spring and this affected his steering. Mark rigged up a chain wrap- around to hold things together. This got Bill home. KW Moore just recently moved down from Wyoming and is looking for a club to wheel with. Glad he chose us. Ray had a good time in his JK, slightly lifted.

We have one more Jemez ride on 7/13, Sunday. Hope we see you on the trail. The Jemez mountains are beautiful, especially after some rains.

Thanks to Jennifer for being a great tailgunner and bringing a fantastic meal for all!!!!!! I think she deserves a point.



Another Jemez Trail Ride July 13, 2014

By Jeff Boggs

Our Club ride started at Walatowa Visitors Center, in the Jemez Mountains. This was our fourth club ride this summer up into the western side of the Jemez Mountains. Today, we had Jeff Boggs, trail leader 2006 LJ; Ray Diaz, guest, 4 door JK; Anthony Knoll and his family in their Razor UTV; Matthew Wheeler, TJ, from White Rock, NM; Shayne Halter, 1970 Bronco; Chris Sears 1986 Bronco; and first time guest, Tom Scheafer, 4 door Rubicon, from Santa Fe, NM.

We drove up through the Gilman tunnels, headed for the roads in the western part of the Santa Fe National Forest. Not far up the road, we met several people walking down the road. They waved for me to pull over. We soon found out that they had gotten their Jeep stuck yesterday and had spent the night in the mountains. They were walking out to get some help. Lucky for them they had brought a tent and food. They asked if we could help. The girl whose Jeep was stuck jumped in to my jeep and their friends climbed in to other vehicles in our group. We drove to the area where they were stuck. I took my jeep and Chris Sears brought down his Bronco to the sunken TJ. The rest of our group stayed on the main road.

Her Jeep was sunk into a real mud hole, and their attempts to get it out had just managed to wedge it deeper. Chris and I decided to hook my winch to the rear bumper of her Jeep. But, as I pulled, all I did was slide toward the muddy Jeep. Chris strapped to the back of my Jeep and we tried again. This time her Jeep rose up but then, both our vehicles started slipping toward her Jeep. We then told her to put in reverse and as her Jeep began to rise up, for her to give it a little gas. This worked and up she came, freed from the grips of the mud. We drove back up to the main road. Of course, these inexperienced young people had learned a good lesson, do not go wheeling alone. And they learned that the New Mexico 4Wheelers will always help get folks out of trouble.

We also told them about getting a copy of the new MVUMap, so they would know where to go in the forest. They were very grateful.

Back to our plans: We headed up toward forest road 534C. The entrance to this road is guarded by a deep mud hole. After Jeff drove through it, Anthony got his UTV through the muddy depths, but too much speed caused the occupants to get some mud on them. We all made it through. At the end of the road there was a great lunch spot on top of a great cliff. After lunch, we drove back out, but Shayne's CB antenna broke off. He found it, but Matthew took over tailgunner duties. We had lost some time during our earlier rescue job, so we decided to go up San Miguel Mountain from the north. Anthony decided to head on back, so they took off toward their trailer. The rest of us started up the steep road. Soon, Matthew said his jeep was stopped and the front



passenger side wheel was way out of place. We came back to find his right front passenger control arm had lost its bolt and nut and was on the ground, not where it is supposed to be. Everybody brought tools and Jeff happened to have the correct nut and Matthew had found the missing bolt. It took awhile to line up the long arm and its bolt hole to the frame, but we got it back together. Off again. But not too far from the summit, Shayne's Bronco just shut off and the motor did not want to start. He finally determined



that an electrical short was the problem. He "alligator" clipped a wire from something to something else, and it started up. Off we go again, down off the mountain. Wait!!! Chris thought his Bronco was not running smoothly and it might be his fuel pump, but the Ford continued to run OK. Is this a virus????

We made it back to the tunnels and aired up, visited and decided we had a good day. Tom had

a good time, having just moved from Miami, Florida. He was real happy to find a 4x4 group to show him around. Ray Diaz is collecting points and he loves this kind of wheeling. We had saved the day, stayed cool at 8000 plus feet elevation, drove some really nice roads, and fixed everything that broke. We made it back by 5:00 pm, and unlike our stuck jeep friends, we did not have to spend the night on the trail.

But just in case, I am bringing a sleeping bag, next time!!!! Thanks to all who made this a good day. It is good to be out with a group who jumped in to help each other. Some days nothing goes wrong and then some days

 **Mark's CASA Jeep Jam**
By Jennifer Chapin



July 27th 2014, the 5th Annual Mark's Casa Jeep Jam, they had 70 registered Jeeps for the competition. However there were many other Jeeps to see there too. Each year they change the categories for the completion so you never know you may have the best Jeep there next year.

It's a great time to get a burger, hot dog, and/or snow cones. Also Erica Viking with Coyote 102.5 was on air and giving away prizes. There were prizes all day and all the modifications you could want to see. There were other vendors selling Jeep products too. It was just an all-out Jeep day. Make sure you don't miss it next year!



Casa Jeep Jam





San Miguel Mountain GTrail

By Mark Wolf

I put out a call for anyone who wanted to go along and help me check out my Grand Cherokee as I had been working on it and needed to give it a “shake down” run to identify any issues it may have. I found them.

Four other vehicles came along to help me with seven people total (including my wife Joan) on the run. I decided to do the San Miguel Mountain run as it is fun, easy, and tweaks the suspension some to see how things flex. Along with me were members Richard Brooks, Glenn and Rebagayle Vialpando, and Jennifer Chapin (of course! She’s on every run!!). Also, Prospective member KW Moore came along in his Grand Cherokee. I believe that everyone who attended had never been on this trail before and all liked it. Even Jennifer who had to get out and trim trees/bushes to make that Ford **RAPTOR** fit through the trail. She made it though and enjoyed it just the same.

We all met at the Walatowa Visitor’s Center north of Jemez Pueblo at 8:30 and left there pretty close to 9:00 AM. We had to make room for several people coming out of the area on the tight roadway, but no incidents were noted. The weather was pretty nice with only a few clouds in the distance. We got to the trail at about 10:00 AM and turned off FS 534 into the San Miguel Mtn trail.

We stopped after the turn off and took time to air down tires if desired. After a few minutes, we headed up the trail. It was easy with erosion on the tire tracks making for some good axle articulation. After a short time, we had to stop and move a downed tree. I know Jeff Boggs had been up this trail at least twice this year and had cleared the trees, but we found more! I think there were trees or limbs located in about four places, but no issue in moving out of the way. Especially with the excellent team work we displayed!

I stopped at about 11:30 or so in a shady spot and we all got out for a relaxing lunch stop. Except for the annoying flies, it was a good spot. We all told several stories and camaraderie was strong. It was a nice time just sitting there and telling those stories.

We left that spot and made our way back down to FS 534 and turned right to head back towards the tunnels. It had come up a little rain shower by the time we made it back to the tunnels, but we stopped and filled up our tires in the rain anyway and never complained. Both KW and the Vialpando’s headed back while Jennifer, Richard and myself performed our duties. I think it was about 2:30 when we completed our task and headed back to Albuquerque. It was a short, but fun day and everyone seemed to enjoy the trail. See you next time!

Oh! I found out that I have clearance issues with my new tires on 4 1/2” backspaced wheels and my existing 3” exhaust pipe. I also found out late Friday night that I had a broken speedometer adapter that was leaking transfer case oil everywhere. What a mess that stuff makes! I also have a nasty vibration that I can’t live with. I will address all three

issues before the next adventure. Taking a vehicle out after making modifications is good thing, but make sure it is with someone else in case you may need assistance. I didn't need any help this time, but things could have gone wrong had I scheduled a long trip before really checking it out. Glad I did what I did and thanks to all those that came along and helped me perform the "shake down".



**Are You Bringing Your Dog?
First Aid for Pets**

Contributed By Jennifer Chapin

What You Should Have in Your Dog's First- Aid Kit

Recommendations from the Humane Society

Learn what supplies you'll need to keep your dog safe and healthy

Everyone who shares a home with a pet should have a basic pet first-aid kit on hand.

Keep your pet's first-aid kit in your home and take it with you in your car if you are traveling with your pet.

One way to start your kit is to buy a first-aid kit designed for people and add pet-specific items to it.

You can also purchase a pet first-aid kit from a pet-supply store or catalog. But you can easily assemble your own kit by gathering the items on our lists below.

Pet-specific supplies

Pet first-aid book

Phone numbers: your veterinarian, the nearest emergency-veterinary clinic (along with directions!), and a poison-control center or hotline (such as the ASPCA poison-control center, which can be reached at 1-800-426-4435)

Paperwork for your pet (in a waterproof container or bag): proof of rabies-vaccination status, copies of other important medical records, and a current photo of your pet (in case he gets lost)

Nylon leash

Self-cling bandage (bandage that stretches and sticks to itself but not to fur—available at pet stores and from pet-supply catalogs)

Muzzle or strips of cloth to prevent biting (don't use this if your pet is vomiting, choking, coughing, or otherwise having difficulty breathing)

Basic first-aid supplies

Absorbent gauze pads

Adhesive tape

Antiseptic wipes, lotion, powder, or spray

Blanket (a foil emergency blanket)

Cotton balls or swabs

Gauze rolls

Hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting—do this only when directed by a veterinarian or a poison-control expert)

Ice pack

Non-latex disposable gloves

Petroleum jelly (to lubricate the thermometer)

Rectal thermometer (your pet's temperature should not rise above 103°F or fall below 100°F)

Scissors (with blunt ends)

Sterile non-stick gauze pads for bandages

Sterile saline solution (sold at pharmacies)

Tweezers

A pillowcase to confine your cat for treatment

A pet carrier

Other useful items

Diphenhydramine (Benadryl®), if approved by a veterinarian for allergic reactions. A veterinarian must tell you the correct dosage for your pet's size.

Ear-cleaning solution

Expired credit card or sample credit card (from direct-mail credit-card offers) to scrape away insect stingers

Glucose paste or corn syrup (for diabetic dogs or those with low blood sugar)

Nail clippers

Non-prescription antibiotic ointment

Penlight or flashlight

Plastic eyedropper or syringe

Rubbing alcohol (isopropyl) to clean the thermometer

Splints and tongue depressors

Styptic powder or pencil (sold at veterinary hospitals, pet-supply stores, and your local pharmacy)

Temporary identification tag (to put your local contact information on your pet's collar when you travel)

Towels

Needle-nosed pliers

Common-sense advice

In addition to the items listed above, include anything your veterinarian has recommended specifically for your pet.

Check the supplies in your pet's first-aid kit occasionally and replace any items that have expired.

For your family's safety, keep all medical supplies and medications out of the reach of children and pets.

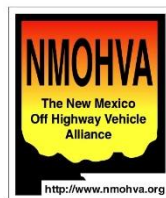
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Web Site Administrator Don Roy, wa@nm4w.org

Newsletter editor, Phil Rodacy, ed@nm4w.org



July 10-12 – Top of the Rockies, Summer Quarterly, Salida CO – Jennifer Chapin. There were two or three runs each day. Erwin Greven was man-of-the-event for helping out Dixon and Jennifer with repairs. Everyone enjoyed the gorgeous scenery and refreshing afternoon showers. Bob Norton requested photos for the SWFWDA newsletter.

July 26-Aug. 2 – All-4-Fun, Silverton CO. Ed Kausche said the event was limited to 250 vehicles this year so it was smaller than usual. One hiccup was that the Forest Service enforced a last-minute limit of 10 vehicles per trail.

July 27 – Mark’s Casa Jeep Jam. Event was well-attended. NM4W and NMOHVA provided info to the public about our activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Aug. 17 – Jemez – Bill Bonahoom. Goal is to finish clearing the last 100 yards to make a passable loop trail as shown on the Travel Management Plan.

Aug. 22-24 – Zuni Mountain Camp Out (ZMCO) – Mark Wolf. The trail run is Saturday. Location is near McGaffey Lake (dry) at the McKinley County Wildlife Center, south of Ft. Wingate. A motion was carried for NM4W to donate \$200 worth of four-wheeling merchandise for the raffle that Jeeps West will hold. Jennifer Chapin will buy the items.

Sept. 6 – Mt. Blanca/Medano Pass – Mt. Blanca (hard run) will be led by Keith Jurey. **Medano Pass** (easy to moderate) will be led by Mark Wolf. Check website for details.

Sept. 20 – Jemez Fall Run – Jennifer Chapin.

Sept. 27 – Mt. Taylor Day Run – Jennifer Chapin. Meet 8:30 at Route 66 Casino.

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge, Caballo Lake NM. Same great event but at a new location. Dave Plaster, SWFWDA Events Chairman, has raffle tickets for sale.

Support your club—be a Trip Leader

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey. Frank G. Whiston reported that the recent ruling against NMOHVA and for the Santa Fe National Forest will be appealed. Even though the judge agreed with the major point of NMOHVA’s challenge, that the Forest Service excluded 2,200 miles of roads from the EIS baseline, he sided with the Santa Fe NF. The appeal will be heard by the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals and might take one year for a decision.

The Cibola National Forest will hold workshops in September on “Potentially Suitable Wilderness Identification and Inventory. The Forest Service will probably want more wilderness so this is a chance to get involved and help shape the plan to include our interests. http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3813690.pdf

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin. Tonight’s prizes were a 25% off coupon from Clayton Offroad (won by Alan Dooley) and \$36 cash in the 50/50 raffle (won by Ed Kausche—second month in a row!). Jennifer will look into posting a merchandise catalog online. Email her if you have a special request.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston. The photos that members put on Picasa are uploaded by the Historian to the club's website. The Historian can weed out duplicates or anything that may not be necessary for the public to see. There are currently 6,000 photos on the club's website.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy. Don fixed a situation where multiple people showed up for one membership. Another change is that now only the President and Treasurer can see dues information.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy. Absent.

4WD HARDWARE CLUB REWARDS PROGRAM – Frank G. Whiston. A few more members recently signed up and will be contacted by 4WD Parts.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Dues.** Pay dues by August 31 or revert to guest status.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **4-Wheeler of the Year.** Don Roy was voted by fellow club members for the annual honor. He does an outstanding job as Webmaster. Almost every visitor is introduced to NM4W via the website.
- **Other Awards.** Winners were awarded \$100 each.
 - Cliff Meier earned the most points.
 - Jeff Boggs led the most trails.
 - Sandy McIntosh was picked in the random drawing for participation.
- **Adopt-A-Highway.** Jennifer Chapin asked if there was interest in participating. Leon explained the history of been there, done that. The club tried this several years ago but there was insufficient member turnout.
- **New Member voted in:** Ronnie Caton

Marcia and Leon were thanked for hosting the meeting. Special kudos to Marcia for completing her Bachelor's Degree in ITS from Penn State. Marcia began this endeavor four years ago, all while working fulltime and being Mom to twins and spouse to Leon. Congratulations, Marcia!

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:31 pm.

**check out the calendar on
the web site – it is
continually updated and
has all of the contact
information you need!**



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

Summer is about over with Fall approaching like a freight train! I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who lead a run and worked on events this summer. This has been the most active summer for the club that I remember and it did not happen without the support of our club members. But with the summer drawing to a close we still have several runs/events planned for the rest of the year, some of which still need a leader such as the Christmas Tree Run.

Also, I received an e-mail from the 4X4 group in Denver and they are still coming next month to Santa Fe and would like to do the Sage Brush Mesa run. We have the Mt Taylor run on the same day but if someone would like to lead this group it would be good. I am going to also invite them to join us at Mt. Taylor if no one volunteers to lead Sage Brush Mesa.

September will our last summer meeting at a member's home. Starting in October we meet back at the Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Rd NE on the second Thursday, Oct 9 at 7:00pm. So mark this on your calendar.

**LEAD A RUN -
THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL**



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Jack Dickey

There is no Environmental Affair report this month.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC



Web Administrator Report

By Don Roy

Some high points of web site activity in the past month...

- T-shirts, license plates, and more are now all visible in an Article maintained by Program Chair Jennifer.
- The textbox editor used all over the site for block text editing has been upgraded, with a couple new things added.
- You could always add additional 18+ yr old family members to your family membership list, but now you can remove them from your membership as well.

How about some website trivia, in no particular order...

- NM4W presently has about 124 people across 69 Memberships, 6 of which are Associate.
- Right now we have 48 'Applicants', people who applied for membership on-line, but have yet to attend anything.
- We also now have 29 Guests, which are people that have shown up at a ride or meeting and are working toward membership.
- Per the site records, Frank G. Whiston has sponsored the most people into Membership, a total of 5. Other sponsors have only 1 or 2.
- At any point in time, someone from 41 of the 69 memberships has logged into the site at least once in the prior two weeks, which is pretty great.
- Including visitors and logged in members, the site gets about 94,000-110,000 site page hits a month, over 3,000 a day.
- Half the dues for the new year were paid with PayPal.
- There are 6,281 photos on the site, across all the Rigs, Profiles, Galleries, and a few associated with Articles or For Sale items. Since each photo is stored as 3 images, the uploaded source size, a shadowbox display size (800px), and a thumbnail size (184px), there are over 18,000 photos stored on the server.
- Even with 6,281 photos, only 15 people have a photo in their profile.
- Only 10 people have any Biography info in their profile.
- 57 different people have created 69 Rig pages.
- Rig page photo count (this is NOT a contest...lol). Jennifer Chapin has 42 photos of a truck she does not own, next most is Laurie Rector with 32 photos of her JK, then Chris Sears with 31 of his Bronco. All other Rigs have a usual 1 to 15 or so photos.
- Rig page Video count? Frank G. Whiston has 3 videos, I have 2, and Jennifer Chapin has 1, that's it, 6 videos across the 70 Rigs.



Don Roy, 4-Wheeler of the Year

By Joan Wolf

Don Roy was announced as 2014 NM4W 4-Wheeler of the Year at the August meeting. Don was selected for the award by fellow club members. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to NM4W and the larger four-wheeling community. As Webmaster, Don has created a “fabulous website” in the words of President Cliff Meier. Don continuously enhances the website and makes it fun, inviting, and user-friendly for members and guests alike.

Past 4-Wheelers of the Year

2103 Jennifer Chapin
2012 Jeff Boggs
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





Thanks to Jeeps West

By Jennifer Chapin



See the Zuni Mountains with Jeeps West! They were great hosts and I know I sure had a good time. They were not prepared for a big Raptor to come along, but the trails were very scenic with some challenging spots due to some really tight spaces. Everyone was helpful and got me through.

They grilled up burgers and dogs to go with the potluck dinner on Saturday night. There was plenty of great food for all. Then came the raffle with a large variety of items and I think that everyone won something. After the raffle, the DJ provided music for dancing for all of us that were not too tired from a day on the trail.

We had some special guests join us for the trail ride to the Mayor of Gallup Jackie McKinney and his wife in their Jeep and a New Mexico Forest Ranger and his wife joined us on a side by side. It was great to have community leaders with us and a supportive forest officer along for the ride.

I want to extend a great big thanks to everyone from Jeeps West. It was great to meet everyone and make some new friends. Let's do it again next summer.

Thank You!





Fifth Zuni Mountain Campout

By Mark Wolf

Mark, Doug here, well there's another one in the history books. Please pass along to everyone what a good time was had by all, and looking forward to the next one. It seems to be the clubs consensus we will do it again next year, so I'll keep you posted on the details as soon as I have them. Thanks again, Doug-JWEC.

That is the email I received after the event and doesn't even come close to expressing how much we enjoyed the event! The hospitality of the Jeeps West group is beyond explanation. Once again they cooked us breakfast burritos and served coffee, juice, milk and sweet rolls to go with the delicious, homemade burritos. After the run for that day the Jeeps West people cooked hot dogs and hamburgers that evening. Wow! And it didn't cost anyone anything! I think they spoil us rotten! What a feeling!

On Friday, August 22nd the Duggar family, the Bonahoom family, the Whiston family with Frank and Donna also, the Vialpando family, Don & Sara Walker, Bob Norton, Ronnie and Yi-Jiun (Sue) Caton, and we arrived to set up camp for the weekend. On Saturday we were joined by Devin Cannady and his brother Randall for a run into the Zuni Mountains following the Jeeps West hosts.

The Jeeps West people also had a couple of special people along for the run today – the Mayor of Gallup – Mr. Jackie McKinney and his wife along with Mt. Taylor District Ranger Matt Reidy and his wife. The Mayor of Gallup is a member of the Jeeps West group as is a District Judge! Wow! This group has dignitaries! The Jeeps West group has worked with District Ranger Matt extensively to implement the Travel



Management directive and it shows. After a short driver's meeting led by President Jeremy Padilla we all aired down our tires and got in line for the run.

We headed east from the McKinley County Wildlife Center and after about a mile or so we ran into hundreds of cars parked along FS 50. What is going on?! Mayor McKinney told us it was the 2014-2015 school year kick-off of the McKinley County schools track teams. Wow! That's what I call support for your teams! There were gobs of people and lots of cars! Jennifer Chapin even provided a "trash truck" and water for some runners! We had to make a slight and quick adjustment to the route for today, but no problem for these guys as they know the area well. After turning left

we headed towards the “rock pile”. I have been up this road before and enjoy it very much. This time I had to work the Grand Cherokee a little more to get it to make the slight climb with the rocks, but I eventually made it without a strap. Straps are embarrassing. In fact, NO ONE needed a strap. Seems I was the only one with issues that day! Well, except for a Jeeps West member whose steering box decided to free itself from the unibody on his XJ. Bill Bonahoom tried welding it but it just wouldn't hold. They had to abandon the XJ and come back for it at the end of the run.



The run was typical of the area, very enjoyable and in the trees. We stopped for lunch at about noon near “Cadillac Lake” and had some good conversation along with our lunch. District Ranger Matt and his wife were very friendly and they mingled well talking to various people, but they had to go for other commitments after lunch and returned to their truck at camp in their UTV. The rest of us

continued our “follow-the-leader” routine on to some rocks where Jeeps West were successful in getting an OHV area set aside during the Travel Management Planning stages. This “area” had a go around and everyone did what they wanted to do – either try the rock ledge or drive around. Well... a certain Ford Raptor had to try to squeeze through some trees to make the go around! It took about 4 of us to get her through, but she made it without a whimper about scratches. Good thing they make wax!

We continued on and came upon a rock outcropping. This is where young Frank Whiston found out neither locker was operable as he had to “take the strap” to make it on a certain climb. Jeeps West President

Jeremy Padilla talked to us briefly about taking another route for more challenge or returning to camp. Most everyone was getting tired by now and camp sound pretty good. Besides, leaving something for next time is always a good idea.



We headed for “Gold Fish Pond” and the guys showed us another OHV area they had set aside. Some demonstrated their skills at rock climbing while the rest of us just watched. After about 15 minutes we turned the vehicles (can’t say Jeeps) around and headed towards camp. We got back to camp about 5:15PM. One thing we did notice was that all of those cars were gone by the time we headed back.



After returning from the run the Jeeps West hosts got busy cooking hot dog and hamburgers. Everyone else brought their dish to share and dinner was served. It was great! We then had a great raffle that the hosts had gotten donations from locals and members. NM4W also provided prizes for the raffle. I don’t know how much Jeeps West took in, but I felt people were generous with their ticket purchases. There were some great prizes and our Bob Norton won a very nice Coleman “Road Trip” grille. There was a disc jockey and music waiting while we raffled and they began playing music for dancing immediately after the raffle. A good time was had by all as people danced into the night! I can’t wait for the next one!



**Jemez Mountain Ride
August 23, 2014
By Bill Bonahoom**

The August 23, 2014 ride in the Jemez Mountains/ Santa Fe National Forest started at the Walatowa Visitor's Center. Bill Bonahoom, trail leader showed up with the family and the XJ truggy in tow right at 9:00 and at that point Frank Whiston and family in their LJ on 35s, Jennifer Chapin in the Raptor, and Gregg Radtke with his sidekick Bessel in the 4dr Rubi were all there already and waiting. Devin Cannady and family in their pretty YJ on 33s and guests Randal Cannady and Jon Van Patten in his newly purchased, maiden voyage XJ on 35s following closely behind. After a quick pow-wow the group decided to air down at our first stopping point along side the stream on FR539 and we left Walatowa right on time at 9:30. We headed up through the tunnels and onto the dirt at FR376 where most of the group started questioning why we did not air down while we were back in the parking lot. But we forged on anyway. Once we got to the stream I noticed everyone getting out of their vehicles still had their teeth rattling from the wash board roads (sorry). I guess these are the things you miss when driving a truggy on 38.5” tires, as we did not feel a thing up front.

The stream area was greener than I have ever seen it and very scenic.

After we aired down we headed up FR535A which is steep, narrow, and an over grown two track path.



By lunch time we made it to where we needed to “find” the first part of 535EA which we were unable to find a few months earlier. A bit of walking and using our imagination and the existing road was located, but very over grown as it had likely not been used in quite some time. The team worked very well together to clear the downed vegetation and make the road passable again.



The weather held out with cooler than average temperatures and only a very small amount of rain to help keep us all cool and the dust down.

This is a great loop and is likely some of the only unmaintained 2 track type roads left on the MVUM and is very enjoyable to drive. The gps track is on the web site and named [Chrch-McMillan Loop](#), (click to access link) so if you're looking for some fun in the Jemez go check it out.



More Venomous Mojave Rattler in New Mexico

Contributed by Frank Whiston

Subject: Head's up for New Mexico backcountry, different more venomous rattlesnake

This is not the relatively un-aggressive diamondback rattler we are used to. This invader from California and Arizona is much more poisonous. It is apparently quicker to strike. Anyone travelling through the desert Southwest needs to be aware of the Mojave rattler. Keep an eye on your kids when you have them out in the backcountry!

Snake sightings on the rise, including more venomous Mojave rattler

By Zack Ponce

zponce@currentargus.com @zackponce12 on Twitter



Mojave rattlesnake (Erik Enderson — Courtesy photo)

The Mojave rattler, one of the most lethal rattlesnakes in the Southwest, has been gradually moving into new territory in Southeastern New Mexico.

The snake is a type of pit viper that has recently migrated from California and Arizona and appears physically similar to the area's native Western diamondback rattlesnake and black-tail rattlesnake.

Mistaking the Mojave rattler for the other rattlesnakes could mean the difference between life and death according to some experts.

The Mojave rattler's fangs are infused with a neurotoxin that is much more potent than its diamondback counterpart, leading the New Mexico Game and Fish Department to dub it the "most dangerous of the state's rattlers." The snake has a reputation for being quick to strike and has venom nearly as toxic as a cobra according to a Game and Fish Department fact sheet on New Mexico rattlesnakes.



John Waters — Courtesy photo Western diamondback rattlesnake

Rick Johnson, a Carlsbad resident, was surprised to have seen two dead baby Mojave rattlers since last week.



Johnson's mom found and killed a 10-inch-long snake after she found it on the porch of her La Huerta residence on Monday, and Johnson also saw another baby Mojave rattlesnake after it was killed last weekend by workers at the Riverwalk Recreation Center.

"I didn't even know they existed until my mom told me about it," he said.

Tony Hutchins, a snake whisperer in Carlsbad, said he first noticed the non-native Mojave rattler in and around the city about five years ago.

Hutchins described the snake's venom as a "whole cocktail" and warned that if bitten, the nearest hospital should be alerted as the victim is en route because doctors must use different anti-venom for Mojave rattler bites than for other rattlesnakes.

Carlsbad Medical Center averages three to five snake bites per year and has treated five patients for snake bite wounds this year according to Nicole Chavez, the hospital's emergency room director. Doctors routinely practice for the scenario, especially since the number of snakes in the city has been on the rise.

James Olsen holds a Western diamondback rattlesnake. The difference between the Western diamondback and the more venomous Mojave rattler can be seen in the rings around the tip of the tail. The Mojave has much thicker white bands than black bands on the end of the tail. (James Olsen — Courtesy photo)

While the Eddy County Sheriff's Department Animal Control unit did not have available data on the number of calls to capture snakes, Captain Arcenio Jones said there has been "a clear rise in snakes in peoples' yards" this year. Jones said snake sightings usually spike around this time of the year because the reptiles are readying for hibernation.

Hutchins, who runs a free snake trapping and recovery business, said he has also noticed an increase in the total amount of snakes in Carlsbad this year, including the Mojave rattlers. Hutchins said he has captured around 30 snakes in the first eight months of 2014, including seven inside the city limits of Carlsbad. Last year, he captured 15 to 20 snakes in the area.

Mojave rattlesnakes are smaller than Western diamondbacks, have a distinctively outlined diamond pattern on their back, and display prominent light and dark diagonal stripes on the sides of their head according to the Game and Fish Department.

The easiest way to distinguish the three snake species is by looking at their tail according to former desert biologist John Waters.

"A black-tail rattlesnake has a tail tipped with all black," Waters explained. "On the Western diamondback, white and black banding on the tip of the tail is usually equal in width or sometimes slightly thicker with the black bands, while the Mojave rattler has banding with much thicker white bands than black ones on the end of the tail."

Reporter Zack Ponce can be reached at (575) 689-7402.



John Waters — Courtesy photo Black-tail rattlesnake



Other things we enjoy!

Contributed By Jennifer Chapin

Bill the Fence Walker!



Besides being the extreme rock crawler and chain saw guy, Bill walks on Fences.



Life is Jeeping and Frisbees!



Yet Another Jemez Trail Ride

August 10, 2014

By Jennifer Chapin

We had myself trying to be trail leader, Jeff Boggs, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Donnie Walker, Guests KW with his Cherokee and just relocated from California, Eamonn & Tara O'Brian with their children in their Cherokee. It was a very nice day not too hot up in the Jemez Mountains. With all the rain we have been getting there were plenty of mud holes to drive through all along the trail. There were quite a few downed trees that people had previously cut so with Jeff Boggs' wood permit we loaded up our pickups with fire wood for Jeff and Paula. There were still some really dusty spots on some of the more traveled roads. We Went up 485 through the Gilman Tunnels and then 376, around to 606, and various roads. With many trails not marked very well we had some u turns and got to an exciting looking washed out hill that we were not sure that we could all get through. We did get to see the tent rocks and drive down just before the steep hill that would take us across the Guadalupe Creek where we are not allowed to cross the water any more. With all the muddy water along the trail some of us had smelly Jeeps but a fun day by all.





**KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC**

NM4W Officers

President Cliff Meier 281-3704 pr@nm4w.org	Vice-President Leon Duggar 235-8988 vp@nm4w.org	Secretary Joan Wolf 856-8539 se@nm4w.org
Treasurer Dixon Patrick 271-9133 tr@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Jennifer Chapin 305-333-3375 pc@nm4w.org	Historian Frank G. Whiston 280-7922 hi@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs 867-5848 tc@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Jack Dickey 505-861-0526 de@nm4w.org	SWFWDA Delegate Bob Norton 281-5315 n5epa@flash.net

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, wa@nm4w.org
 Newsletter editor, Phil Rodacy, ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



October 1, 2014

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2014
by Joan Wolf



The meeting was held on Sept 13 at the home of Chris and Bill Dressler. President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

GUESTS: Chuck Aragon ('12 JK), John & Cindy Burke ('94 YJ), KW Moore ('93 Grand Wagoneer), Eamonn O'Brien, James Reiner ('91 Jeep MJ).

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Mark & Maria Berglund, Jennifer Chapin, Bill & Chris Dressler, Leon Duggar, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Dixon Patrick, Dave Plaster, Bob & Carol Provance, Don Roy & Janie Shows, Chris Sears, Frank G. Whiston, Frank R. & Donna Whiston, Mark & Joan Wolf, Richard & Helen Zarobsky.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf. Meeting minutes from August were accepted as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick. Dixon reported \$3,569.32 in the club's treasury.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar. VP Leon explained the points system and then Sheriff Leon announced fines. Matthew Wheeler, \$0.25, for blowing up a shock on Mt. Blanca and splattering the esteemed Sheriff. There was an attempt to fine Jennifer Chapin for an infraction on a Jemez run but no one could remember specifics. Mark Wolf, \$0.25, for missing the turn on to a County Road on the Medano Run (the navigator pleads innocent). Travis Bakewell, \$0.25 for not removing the camera's lens cap, and \$0.25 for losing lug nuts. However, this was attributed to faulty DNA so Dad (Tracy Bakewell) paid the fine.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs. Jeff was absent so run participants reported.

PAST EVENTS:

Aug. 17 – Jemez trail clearing. Frank said there is now a connected loop on the Travel Management map and on the ground. The GPS tracks are on the club website so that any member can find the trail and use it.

Aug. 22-24 – Zuni Mountain Camp Out (ZMCO) – Mark Wolf. Jeeps West put on another fun, well-organized event. Great hospitality and a scenic trail run with optional rock crawling. Special participants were the Mayor of Gallup (a Jeeps West club member) and Mt Taylor District Ranger Matt Reidy. Jeeps West worked with Matt to create an OHV area in the Zunis. In addition to cooking burritos for breakfast and burgers for dinner, Jeeps West held a raffle and provided a DJ.

Sept. 6 – Medano Pass, CO – Mark Wolf. Great views on the trail and on Pass Creek Road (Colorado ranch country). Nine vehicles, good weather.

Sept. 6 – Mt. Blanca, CO – Keith Jurey. Started with six vehicles but one turned back halfway up Jaws 1. Leon said this is rated the 7th hardest trail in Colorado. He recommends everyone do it once. Keith will lead it again in Sept 2015.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept. 20 – Jemez Fall Run – Jennifer Chapin. Jennifer will pull out the Travel Management Map and find a place to go.

Sept. 27 – Mt. Taylor Day Run – Jennifer Chapin. Meet 8:30 at Route 66 Casino. Frank is helping lay out a route. Members from a Colorado Springs 4WD club may attend.

Sept. 27 – Meet & Greet NMOHVA, Oak Flat Picnic Ground on south Hwy 14 – Frank G. Whiston. Meet Board members, learn more about NMOHVA. BBQ is at 1 pm, free, but register for head-count. Looking for a volunteer to lead Cedro Peak for full size 4WD vehicles. Motorcyclists will do trail work.

Oct. 4 – Gordy’s Hill, Socorro – Don Roy. Don isn’t sure which trails he’ll run. Need 33” tires and two lockers. Test yourself and your rig before the Chile Challenge.

Oct. 9 – Monthly meeting, Senior Room at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Rd. NE. Host: Jennifer Chapin.

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge, Caballo Lake NM. It isn’t in Las Cruces anymore. Try some new trails. Dave Plaster, SWFWDA Events Chairman, has raffle tickets for sale.

Nov. 8 – Manzano Mountains – Cliff Meier. Easy run. In the unlikely event of bad weather, the gate to the area could be closed, so stay tuned.

Check the website for the Nov. 22 Food Drive, Christmas Tree Run, and more.

Support your club—be a Trip Leader

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey. Frank G. Whiston reported on the wilderness collaboration workshop held by the Cibola National Forest. Their initial leaning is to add 1/3 of the forest land as wilderness. Frank encouraged everyone to look at the maps and tell the USFS if there are already fences, roads, human presence. Another important point, the areas will be managed as wilderness whether Congress passes the measure or not. Comments can be made online by Nov. 21, 2014. Frank put some sample verbiage on the website; contact him with any questions. Areas such as Mt. Taylor and Datil may be designated as wilderness. Make your interests known, say why you don’t want it wilderness. For success stories about standing up to the USFS and BLM, check out the Blue Ribbon Coalition. <http://www.sharetrails.org/>

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin. Club gear is now available on the website. Tonight’s raffle drawings were for LED lights (won by Jeannie Meier) and \$33 cash (won by Travis Bakewell). No more excuses about not being able to afford lug nuts.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston. Everyone is encouraged to take photos and upload to Picasa.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy. Don's recent statistics show there are 3,000 hits a day on the website. Please keep your profile current, especially contact info.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy. Absent.

4WD HARDWARE CLUB REWARDS PROGRAM – Frank G. Whiston. Half of the club is enrolled in the program. Enrollees get up to 20% off purchases. NM4W gets a 3% rebate.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **None.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Jeeps West.** Mark Wolf explained that Jeeps West is a small club and yet hosted NM4W in a big way. They rented the facility, bought food, etc. Motion was approved to send them \$250 to help with expenses. Don Roy volunteered to spearhead the effort to reciprocate at Gordy's Hill or somewhere in our neighborhood. Timeframe is November-February.
- **SWFWDA (Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association).**
 - **Land Action Fund.** When a member club needs money to fight a government agency, member clubs can request SWFWDA funds and pass the money on to a NMOHVA-like agency. Frank G. Whiston said that NM4W made a request for \$5,000 in 2012 at the Silverton Summer Quarterly and it was approved. Citing the expense of the current appeal on the Santa Fe NF Travel Management case, Frank proposed that NM4W ask for \$10,000 to be directed from the SWFWDA Land Action fund to NMOHVA. The Land Action fund current balance is approximately \$19,000. Frank believes there is a good chance of winning the appeal. If they lose, the Santa Fe NF must redo the Travel Management Plan. In the meantime, the SFNF must treat the road system as it was prior to the lawsuit--so the roads would be reopened. Motion was passed unanimously to request \$10,000. Frank will send the request letter to Sandy McIntosh, a SWFWDA officer, for inclusion in the quarterly meeting in October at the Chile Challenge.
 - **Dues.** NM4W's dues (approx. \$500) are due to Southwest by October 1. After discussion, members agreed that the dues should be paid and Dixon will issue the check. This is appropriate especially in light of NM4W's request for help in the Santa Fe NF lawsuit. SWFWDA status is that recent president, David Teague, has completed his term and is not involved. There are 11 clubs (approximately 300 members) in the association, down from 1,000 members and 20+ clubs 15 years ago. The association's future is unclear. Per Jeanne Meier, the Southwest by-laws indicate that, if dissolved, all funds are to be directed to 501C3 charity.
 - **Raffle.** Prizes include a Warn Winch and something cool from Superlift. Dave Plaster has tickets for sale. In the past, NM4W has bought tickets to support the raffle. Motion was made and passed for the club to purchase \$300 worth of tickets.
- **Food Drive, Nov. 22.** If unable to attend, bring canned goods to any meeting or run prior to the event.
- **Hosts for winter meetings**
 - October 9 Jennifer Chapin
 - November 13 Dixon & Zelda Patrick
 - December Bakewell's
 - January TBD

- February Leon & Marcia Duggar
- March Cliff & Jeanne Meier
- April TBD

- **New Member voted in:** KW Moore

Thanks were extended to Bill and Chris Dressler for hosting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:25 pm.

**check out the calendar on
the web site - it is
continually updated and
has all of the contact
information you need!**



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

There is no President's report this month.

**LEAD A RUN -
THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL**



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Jack Dickey

There is no Environmental Affair report this month.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC



Medano Pass Trail, Colorado

By Mark Wolf



On Saturday, September 6th I met several New Mexico Four Wheelers at the Great Sand Dunes National Park near Alamosa, Colorado to run the Medano Pass Trail. I had seen the invitation to travel up to Mt. Blanca and knew I could no longer do that trail, but remembered the Medano Pass Trail as a particularly scenic trail next door to the Mt. Blanca trail. I thought, hey! Why not? So I volunteered to lead this trail run and was glad I did. Joan and I always like to go to Colorado, especially in the fall.

The weather on the way up to the Great Sand Dunes National Park was kind of wet and looked to be more so as the weekend progressed, but that did not come to pass (ok, pun intended!). Joan and I arrived in the campground at the Great Sand Dunes at about 5:00 PM and it rained for maybe 45 seconds. Not even enough to “dampen” our work to get the tent up! Yes, Joan and I decided

to bring along the tent this time as the trailer takes too much time to deal with and we have to drive slower when we travel with it. I had to be in Carlsbad, NM on Sunday evening and a quick trip home on Sunday morning would be best.

We were met by Robert Hohlfeld and his friend Richard who came from Albuquerque that evening. They too had tents, but got them assembled and ready for bedtime in a short time. We also met Steve Schaefer from Santa Fe whom had seen our website and decided at the last minute to go along with us. This was Steve's first event with the NM4Ws. Steve had one of those Off-Road trailers complete with roof-top tent that he pulls behind his JK Unlimited Rubicon. It took him no time to prepare for bedtime! We all slept the night away only dealing with a strong wind at times, but thanks to the trees in the campground it shielded us fairly well.

The next morning we met at the Visitor's Center at 9:00 AM where we were met by Chris Sears, Tracy and Cheryle Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Bob and Carol Provance, Jennifer Chapin (of course, she goes on everything!), Ronnie and Yi-Jiun (Sue) Caton, and visitor Geoff and Rosie Mason from San Antonio, Texas (from Marcia and Leon's old club). After a brief driver's meeting and airing down our tires we headed for the trailhead which is about a ¼ mile away from that location towards the campground.

The trail had another group of two vehicles from Colorado on it at the very beginning, but we never saw them again all day. In fact, we never saw anyone until we were more than half way through and those folks came from the east side of the pass towards us. The trail has a few soft sandy spots and crosses the creek in several places, but is a fairly easy trail. We did find a "Raptor trap", but the Raptor operator cruised through like it wasn't even there. We stopped about half way through for some conversation and a bathroom break, most commenting on the fire that had ravaged the area approximately 3 years ago. There was now a lot of undergrowth blocking our view and in places you could see where rocks had washed down from the hill sides and onto the trail. However, they did not pose any problems for any one that day.

We continued to the top of the pass and along the way had to move over for on-coming vehicles a few times. It was nice to see others taking advantage of the fine weather and beautiful trail conditions. At the top of the pass we all stopped for lunch and more conversation. After about an hour, we loaded our vehicles up and looked at the map for where we were going. Bob Provance said he hadn't been on the trail since 1977! Most of the others had never been on the trail period. Robert and his friend Roger decided to turn around and go back the way we came as he wanted to run the trail in the other direction and didn't feel like traveling all of that road mileage necessary to get back to the campground. We bid them farewell and headed east towards highway 69. After reaching it we traveled down about 4 miles where I missed the turn towards the Pass Creek Road. After I got turned around and turned left onto this road the others followed. This was a nice series of dirt and paved roads traveling through some good ole Colorado ranch country that eventually led us back to Highway 160. We stopped just short of the highway and aired our tires back up. That is when Travis noticed he was missing some lug nuts.

After Travis got his situation under control (and we found ways of blaming Tracy) and all of the others got their tires aired up we pulled out onto the highway and headed for Ft. Garland. That's where we pulled off for some drinks and treats and talked awhile before going our separate ways for the evening. It was a great day and the only rain we saw was when we aired up and heading back to camp. It never rained in camp the whole time we were there. It was a great run and I appreciate everyone who came along to share the good times! I think everyone enjoyed the trail very much.



Oh! Geoff and Rosie Mason are members of the San Antonio Jeep Exclusive Club (where Leon and Marcia were members before moving to New Mexico) and happened to be in the area on their way to Silverton. They had emailed me to see if we minded if they came along and of course I said no. It was fun to have them along as they are great conversationalists. They are retired and take long Jeep tours. I can feel that coming, Mr. Werkmeister!



Mt. Blanca

By Keith Jurey

This year's trip was attended by 4 vehicles from NM4W and 3 from MHJC.

We had great weather for the trip after the fog burned off on Sat. morning. The overnight campout was enjoyed by all who attended with a full moonlight night and sharing of stories and experiences of the group during the evening.



One Jeep experienced a broken hub before we reached Jaws 1 and had to turn around and go home since spares were used at a previous run on Chinaman's Gulch.

There were indications of people wanting to make the trip again and will expect more participation next year based upon the interest shown. It was requested that we consider spending two nights at the lake so some who want to hike Blanca would have the opportunity to do so. We can always plan on a trip down

after the 1st night for those not interested in hiking or just spending a day relaxing around the camp and lake.

I will plan to put more together and get a posting on the website for the 2015 trip which would again extend an invitation to members of other clubs. If there is enough interest and sign up for the run we may plan to split into 2 groups for the trip up but would require at least 10 vehicles before this would become a consideration.

I would like to suggest that members of Jeeps West in Gallup be considered for an invitation by the club for the Generosity & Hospitality they have shown for NM4W's in past years.





Food Drive Reminder

By Jennifer Chapin

7th Annual New Mexico 4-Wheelers Holiday Food Drive



Remember if you cannot make it to the food drive you can still participate by:

- A. Bring food to our October or November Club Meetings
- B. Bring a check written out to "Road Runner Food Bank"

Also, if you bring a food donation to the October or November Club meetings you will receive 1 **free** 50/50 raffle ticket.





Mt Taylor Easy Ride

September 27, 2014
By Jennifer Chapin



We had 7 trucks all ready to go at the Route 66 Casino, I then took off and with all the truck traffic in the circle, I got on interstate 40 going the wrong direction. I lost one of our trucks. I would hope that it is not a first in New Mexico 4-Wheelers history to lose a truck before getting to the trail head. We turned around and then on the way back picked him up on the entrance ramp going west. Even with today's technology I missed the first turn to the trail head. The trail did start out easy but there had been some recent storms because the roads were very washed out in places with deep holes that provided a little challenge for the stock vehicles. Everyone made it through safe and sound. We had lunch by the radio towers. It looked like some of these radio towers were very newly constructed within the last year.

Our route was to take forest road 400 and then connect to forest road 501 at the radio towers and then take 193 back to Grants. There were some great over looks and really just nice scenery with some fall colors too. The sad part was that there was a lot of trash along the roads. We picked up quite a few cans and bottles to help leave the forest better than when we came.



Other things we enjoy!

Contributed By Jennifer Chapin

This is considered the only US Postage Stamp with a 4x4 truck on it.



**1992 29c Alaska Highway
50th Anniversary**

1992 29c Alaska Highway 50th Anniversary

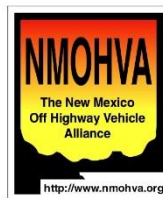
Also known as the Alaska-Canada or ALCAN Highway, this strategic roadway built during World War II connects the lower 48 states to Alaska through Canada. Completed in 1943, the 1,522-mile highway runs from British Columbia through Canada's Yukon Territory to its final 200 mile stretch through Alaska, where it ends at Delta Junction, about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks. It was intended to link the airfields of the Northwest Staging Route that conveyed lend-lease military aircraft from the U.S. to the Soviet Union.

KEEP PUBLIC LANDS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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Web Site Administrator Don Roy, wa@nm4w.org
 Newsletter editor, Phil Rodacy, ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



November 1, 2014

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org

Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2014

by Jeanne Meier, Acting Secretary



The meeting was held on October 9, 2014, at Heights Presbyterian Church. President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

GUESTS: Dennis and Laurie Mann, Ben Romero, Eamonn O'Brien, Garek Antonio, Paul Ness, Donnie Walker.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy & Cheryle Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Bill Bonahoom, Devin Cannady, Jennifer Chapin, Bill & Chris Dressler, Ed Kausche, Sandra McIntosh, Cliff & Jeanne Meier, KW Moore, Dixon Patrick, Dave Plaster, Bob & Carol Provance, Chris Sears, Diego Serna, Kenneth Tinker, Frank R. & Donna Whiston,

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf. Joan was not present, Jeanne Meier was acting Secretary. Meeting minutes from September were accepted as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick. Dixon reported \$2387.97 in the club's treasury.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar. Leon was not present so Cliff reviewed the points and asked about possible fines. Jennifer Chapin reported herself for losing a person and for missing the trailhead. Don Roy was reported for missing trail but he was not present to pay the fine.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs.

PAST EVENTS:

Sept. 20 – Jemez Fall Run – Jennifer Chapin. Jennifer led the run with 1 participant.

Sept. 27 – Mt. Taylor Day Run – Jennifer Chapin. Jennifer reported a good run but part of the trail was badly washed and it was not easy.

Sept. 27 – Meet & Greet NMOHVA, Oak Flat Picnic Ground on south Hwy 14 – The event was a meet and greet of mostly motorcycles.

Oct. 4 – Gordy's Hill, Socorro – Don Roy. Don was not present but participants indicated a good run but Don missed part of the trail.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge, Caballo Lake NM. It has been moved to Caballo Lake State Park due to problems with BLM over the Las Cruces trails. Sandy McIntosh had raffle tickets for sale.

Nov. 8 – Manzano Mountains – Cliff Meier. Easy run. In the unlikely event of bad weather, the gate to the area could be closed, so stay tuned. The Forest Service is planning a control burned in part of the area a couple of weeks prior but it shouldn't affect the event.

Nov 13 – November NM4W Meeting. The meeting will be at Heights Presbyterian Church at 7:00 pm.

Nov 22 – NM4W Holiday Food Drive – Frank G Whiston. Participants bring food for the Roadrunner Food Bank to ABQ Uptown during the annual food drive by KOB TV. See website for more information.

Dec 7 – NM4W Christmas Meeting and Potluck. Tracy and Cheryle Bakewell will be hosting the Christmas Meeting and Potluck at 5:00 pm. See website for more information.

Dec 13 – Annual Christmas Tree Run – Walatowa Visitors Center at 9:00 pm. See website for more information.

Support your club—be a Trip Leader

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey. Jack was not present.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin. Club gear and club license plates are available at the meeting as well as the website.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston. Frank was not present but everyone was reminded to upload photos to Picasa.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT – Don Roy. Don Roy was not present.

EDITOR'S REPORT – Phil Rodacy. Absent.

4WD HARDWARE CLUB REWARDS PROGRAM – Frank G. Whiston. Frank was not present but the program was explained to attendees. Enrollees get up to 20% off purchases. NM4W gets a 3% rebate.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Jeeps West reciprocation event.** Don Roy is planning an event to reciprocate Jeep West for their event in August but Don was not present. Timeframe is November-February.
- **Host for meetings at the church.** Cliff Meier asked for volunteers for the January and April meetings. Jeff Boggs will do the November and Dixon and Zelda Patrick will host the January meeting. Originally Dixon and Zelda had volunteered for November. There was no volunteer for the April meeting.

- **SWFWDA Raffle.** Sandy McIntosh indicated she had raffle tickets for sale for the SWFWDA raffle during Chile Challenge. Prizes were beginning to come in including a wench from Warn.
- **NMOHVA Calendar.** NMOHVA is doing another calendar and needs jeep pictures.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **None**
- **Hosts for winter meetings**
 - November 13 Jeff Boggs
 - December 7 Cheryle & Tracy Bakewell
 - January 8 Zelda & Dixon Patrick
 - February 12 Leon & Marcia Duggar
 - March 12 Cliff & Jeanne Meier
 - April 9 TBD
- **New Member voted in:** Eamonn O'Brien

Thanks were extended to Jennifer Chapin for hosting the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:45 pm.

**check out the calendar on
the web site - it is
continually updated and
has all of the contact
information you need!**



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

There is no President's report this month.

**LEAD A RUN -
THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL**



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.

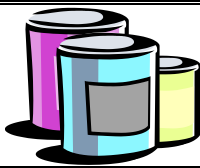


Director of Environmental Affairs

By Jack Dickey

There is no Environmental Affair report this month.

**Keep PUBLIC lands open
to the PUBLIC**



Food Drive Reminder

By Jennifer Chapin

7th Annual New Mexico 4-Wheelers Holiday Food Drive November 22, 2014



Remember if you cannot make it to the food drive you can still participate by:

- A. Bring food to our October or November Club Meetings
- B. Bring a check written out to "Road Runner Food Bank"

Also, if you bring a food donation to the October or November Club meetings you will receive 1 **free** 50/50 raffle ticket.





Trail Dust Days Ride By Don Lee

October 15, 2014, 6 of the New Mexico 4 Wheelers Associate Members met in Tucson for a weekend of fun with the Tucson Rough Riders and their Trail Dust Days event. We met at 1:00 pm at In-N-Out Burger across Highway 77 from Catalina State Park entrance for a burger and fries before heading into the park to set up the campers and register for the event. The six of us were Erwin and Jeannie Greven, Terry and Linda Hill, and Don and Sarah Walker. Trails started on Friday morning, Sarah and I headed out for Ripsy Mine Trail, the Hills and Grevens head out for Holy Joe Wash.



Ripsy Mine

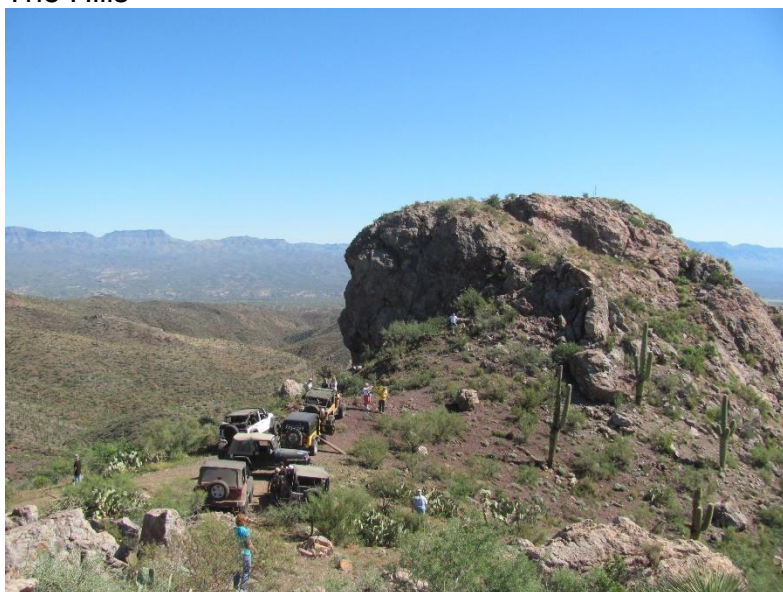


The Greven and Hills

Saturday morning was the second day for trails and again we headed our separate ways the Hills and Grevens head out for West Mammoth and Putman trail and Sarah and I head for Charouleau Gap being run from south to north.



The Hills



On the trail with Hills and Grevens



Looking down over an old dam in a canyon on the Ripsy Mine trail



The dam from the downstream side



Don and Sarah Rubi on the top of the Charouleau Gap.



The White spot on the distant bluff is Bio Sphere 2 coming out of the Charouleau Gap Trail.

Upon returning to camp Saturday evening there was ramp contest, a BBQ dinner was served and there was also a night time Poker Run that started at 8 pm with vehicles leaving every 5 minutes with a map in hand. A campfire was built and those that did take part in the Poker run sat around and talked.

Sunday morning brought about a continental breakfast and the awarding of prizes for the Furthest Traveled (Denver), and the ramp contest. The top three hands in the Poker Run were awarded their winning hand in a frame and a prize. An award was given for the most carnage, a broken drive line, and the organizing committee, was recognized for their hard work. Then the drawing for the donated prizes began, all of us came home with something in hand. Sarah had her eye on a Jeep Beach Towel. When her name was drawn and she won wine glasses, she announced she was willing to trade who ever won the beach towel. The chance to trade came up but no one wanted to trade until I won a set of XRC light bar clamps. Guess who now has a Jeep Beach Towel and Wine Glass but not XRC Light Bar Clamps. PS: The gentleman that traded the towel for the clamps also won a set of LED light to go with the clamps! Yes, it was our fellow Wheeler Don Walker

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 Newsletter editor, Phil Rodacy, ed@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



December 1, 2014

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Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2014

by Joan Wolf



The meeting was held on Nov. 13, 2014 at Heights Presbyterian Church. President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

GUESTS: Joe and Geraldine Barfoot (JK Rubicon), Dennis and Laurie Mann, Dick Paschall (XJ), Gordon Rowley, Don Tyler.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tracy Bakewell, Travis Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Bill Bonahoom, Jennifer Chapin, Craig Courtright, Bill & Chris Dressler, Cliff Meier, KW Moore, Eamonn O'Brien, Dixon Patrick, Dave Plaster, Bob Provance, Phil and Ilene Rodacy, Don Roy, Diego Serna, Andy and Rhonda Townes, Joan Wolf.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Joan Wolf. Meeting minutes from October were accepted as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Dixon Patrick. Dixon reported \$2,552.04 in the club's treasury.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Leon Duggar. Leon was not present so Cliff reviewed the points system, noting that five points are required for member eligibility. Dave Plaster was fined \$0.75 for having problems with 3 out of 3 rigs at Chile Challenge: his Jeep got on its side on a trail, Sandy's Wrangler had two broken leaf springs, and the RV sprang a tranny leak in Socorro. Cliff was alleged to have made a wrong turn in the Manzanos but he explained it as an "exploratory turn".

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs.

PAST EVENTS:

Oct. 15-18 – Chile Challenge, Caballo Lake NM. 187 vehicles, lots of great trail runs, well-organized, friendly environment. A local business offered discounts on gas and food.

Oct. 26 – Jemez Fall Run – Jennifer Chapin. Great view of Fenton Lake, some ledges to navigate.

Nov. 8 – Manzano Mountains – Cliff Meier. 17 vehicles, group got separated at some point. Reminder—keep the vehicle behind you in sight. Came out at Abo ruins.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov. 16 – Jemez Run – Jennifer Chapin. Route TBD.

Nov 22 – NM4W Holiday Food Drive – Frank G Whiston. Community service event. Bring food in your 4WD vehicle to the live event at ABQ Uptown.

Dec 7 – Toys for Tots Drive, Rio Rancho Elks Lodge. In addition to the toy drive, there will be a car show with a 4x4 category.

Dec 7 – NM4W Christmas Meeting and Potluck. Club will provide the meat, members bring a potluck dish. Optional gift exchange, \$15 limit. See website for more information.

Dec 13 – Annual Christmas Tree Run – Walatowa Visitors Center at 9:00 am (arrive at 8:40 for coffee or hot chocolate from the Raptor Starbucks). Tree cutting permits can be bought at Walatowa .

Dec 14 – Gordy’s Hill – Jeff Boggs will lead a moderate run. Meet at the gas station, Exit 156, Lemitar.

2015 runs, keep checking the website for more.

Feb 21-22, Chloride Canyon (Tor C area), Jennifer Chapin.

May 6-15, Moab and Green River, Utah, Cliff Meier.

Be a Trip Leader—there’s no such thing as too many trail rides

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – Jack Dickey. Jack was not present.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Jennifer Chapin. Club gear and club license plates are available at the meeting and on the website. In addition to the 50/50 cash, a Chile Challenge hat and a calculator were raffled.

HISTORIAN’S REPORT – Frank G. Whiston. Frank was not present.

WEBMASTER’S REPORT – Don Roy. Don and Frank G. Whiston have been busy programming a library of trails the club uses. Options will include viewing on the website, using Google Earth, and downloading a file. Check out the new tab “Trails”. If anyone has additions, contact Frank or Don to add the trail. There are descriptions, photos, videos, and a trail-rating. Currently, the Trails feature is Members Only. Cliff thanked Don and Frank for their hard work. KW Moore said the trails library is really good already.

EDITOR’S REPORT – Phil Rodacy. Phil was present but wasn’t called on for a report. (NOTE: Phil is a behinds-the-scenes contributor to NM4W. He quietly goes about producing an excellent newsletter every month.)

4WD HARDWARE CLUB REWARDS PROGRAM – Frank G. Whiston. Frank was not present. KW Moore hasn’t received his card yet but was assured that Frank will mail it out. The discount is larger through mail order than through the retail store.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Jeeps West reciprocation.** Don Roy is working this. He may float the idea of NM4W alternating with Jeeps West as host for a summer event.
- **Host for April 2015 meeting.** Diego Serna volunteered so hosts are lined up through April.
- **SWFWDA.** At the Chile Challenge quarterly meeting, NM4W requested that money from the land action fund be designated for the Santa Fe NF lawsuit. The requested amount was met and surpassed. The funds will come to NM4W and then be turned over to NMOHVA. The Flint Hills Jeep Club out of Topeka is not rejoining SWFWDA.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Financial business.** The following actions were approved.
 - Donate \$200 to the Roadrunner Food Bank.
 - Donate \$200 to Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church for use of the meeting room.
 - Pay \$100 to NMOHVA for NM4W ad space in the 2015 calendar.
 - Allocate \$150 towards meat for the Christmas party.
- **New Members voted in:** Dennis Mann and Gordon Rowley
- **Winners**
 - 50/50 Raffle, \$32, Bill Bonahoom
 - Calculator, Travis Bakewell
 - Chile Challenge hat, Andy Townes

Thanks were extended to Jeff Boggs for hosting the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:55 pm.

**check out the calendar on
the web site – it is
continually updated and
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information you need!**



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

I would like to thank everyone in the club for their support this year. This is what makes NM4W a great club! It's not too early to start thinking about next July's election of club officers. I will be reminding everyone about this each month. I will not be running for president again. I think 2 years is enough and I feel it is time for new blood with new ideas.

It's that time of year again; Thanksgiving is behind us and Christmas/New Years is coming up fast! 2014 has gone by almost as fast, too! The club has been very active this year, the most since I have been a member with runs in New Mexico and Colorado. We have developed several great new trail leaders but have room for more so these folks don't get burned out. So I would like to challenge everyone to lead at least one trail in 2015. It isn't hard.

Along with 2014 runs/events we are starting to plan events in 2015, some are in the calendar already, such as, Chloride Canyon/Feb, and Easter Jeep Safari/Apr (UT) and Moab/Green River/May (UT). If you haven't been to the Easter Jeep Safari you have go at least once! In addition but not on the calendar is another Hole in the Rock (UT) run in late Apr/early May, Mile High's All-4-Fun in late Jul (CO) and Mt Blanca (CO) over Labor Day. Also there will be more Gordy's Hill runs in the spring before it gets too hot. So keep checking the club calendar for details for the out of state events sign up early and make your reservations. Especially in Moab which gets busy in with the Safari in April and then other 4X4 events in May before it gets too hot.

Jeanne and I want to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

See you all at the Christmas Party on Dec 7th.

**LEAD A RUN -
THE TRIP LEADER IS IN CONTROL**



Vice President's Soap Box

By Leon Dugger

There is no Vice President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

By Jack Dickey

There is no Environmental Affair report this month.



Webmaster's Report

By Don Roy

New 'Trails' and 'Docs' on Web Site

Two major things have changed on the web site this past month. One is a full rewrite of the old 'Docs' section, the other is a brand new 'Trails' section.

DOCS

This section used to just have a link to click and have the document downloaded. The new system has clicking on an item take you to a descriptive page first. Here the uploader can write some text about the document, such as the change history of the bylaws or SOPs, anything to help people use the specific document. The descriptive page also has a nice icon to click to actually download the item.

TRAILS

The big news this month is the new 'Trails' item on the menu bar. Many people have GPS devices on the trail now, plus Google Earth and Google Maps, looking at a map just isn't efficient these days. So, Frank G. and I decided a high tech repository for the club trails was needed. Using GPS 'tracks' gathered from our own work and from other club members, Frank and I are building a library of trail information. Each 'Trails' item is a combination if many GPS tracks to properly document the areas NM4W travels. Meaning, there will be one item for the Jemez area, another for Gordy's Hill, another for Silverton, etc. Besides the historical aspect of this information, it provides an accurate mechanism for a new leader to plan a future ride in the area. Since this is more of an archival system, this section will be managed by Frank, our Historian, and I for the foreseeable future. Please have a look, just click Trails!



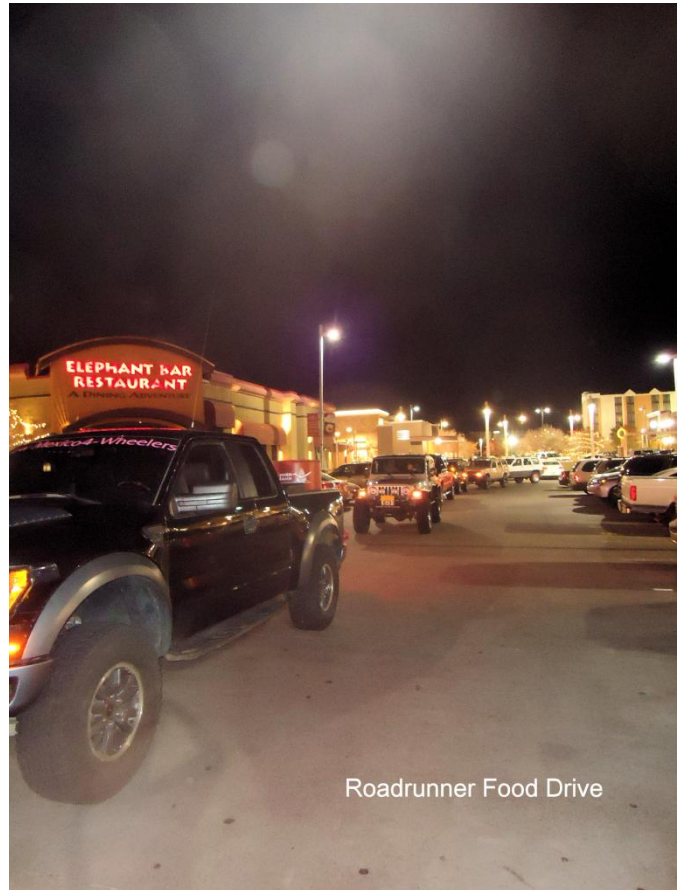


Recent Activities

There aren't any articles, but here are a couple of pictures from recent NM4W activities:



7th Annual Roadrunner food drive



Roadrunner Food Drive



Road in the Jemez



Gordys Hard / Extreme



Gordys Hard / Extreme



Gordys Hard / Extreme

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