



Trail Tales



January 1, 2023

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org



Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2022

By Cathy Arlowe

The meeting was held at Diego and Lysle Serna's lovely home at 12308 Casa Grande Ave NE and was hosted by the Sernas who outdid themselves and spoiled all of us with delicious bar-b-que. The rest of the member provided other potluck dishes that provided a well-rounded and memorable meal. Of particular note was Christine Robson's amazing cornbread that we all look forward to seeing again at a potluck in the near future.

President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. and noted that we would not have full reports this meeting as it was primarily our Christmas party, and we would rather be socializing and opening presents.

GUESTS:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Arlowe, Tracy Bakewell, Cheryle Bakewell, Jack Dickey, Cathy Dickey, Suzan Granados, Arno Granados, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, Joseph Miranda, Kim Miranda, Christine Robson, Steve Robson, NaDeen Roland, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Diego Serna, Lysle Serna, Richard Steele, Beth P. Steele, Don Walker, Sarah Walker, Frank Whiston

FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS: The Club owes Diego for the cost of the meat. The motion to pay Diego back (approximately \$175.00) passed without discussion.

SECOND ORDER OF BUSINESS: Jack Dickey paid a fine for taking the wrong turn and getting lost as trip leader.

There was a drawing for the money paid as fines in 2022. Arno Granados won the pot.

THIRD ORDER OF BUSINESS: TRIP REPORT. Jeff Boggs, trip chair, was not present. Cliff Meier presented the trip report.

Past Events:

Jack Dickey reported on the Tour of Luis Lopez Mining District and Bianca Canyon, Socorro County.

Future Events:

Christmas Tree Run has been rescheduled for Saturday, December 17, 2022 (and was later re-scheduled for December 18, 2022, which is why you should continue to check the website).

GMRS Radio Information Session will take place on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Meet Point: 5105 Fairmont Ct NW, Albuquerque, NM.

Club Meeting will take place on Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at the North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center. Cathy and Jack Dickey volunteer to host this meeting.

Cabazon Area Ride 2023 will take place on Saturday, January 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m. lead by Jeff Boggs. Meet Point: San Ysidro, NM. First ride of 2023!

Winter 4X4 Jamboree will take place on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, to Saturday, January 21, 2023 in Hurricane, Utah.


West Mesa Ride 2023 will take place on Sunday, January 22, 2023, 9:00 a.m. led by Jeff Boggs. Meet Point: Home Depot Hwy 550, Rio Rancho, NM.

Cliff Meier encourages folks to lead a ride and to always check the webpage for last minute trips and upcoming events.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT – Cathy Dickey. Cathy showed an example of the silkscreen artwork. You can take any article of clothing to ASI Custom Graphics and get an iron on of the artwork. You can find more information on the website under the Get Club Logo Items tab.

There was no 50/50 drawing at this meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 3:42 p.m.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Zoning Out on Enchanted Trails</p> <p style="text-align: center;">By Suzan Granados</p>
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November 20, 2022 dawned and brightened into a clear and pleasant fall day. Perfect weather for four-wheeling in the Southwest. The trip, co-led by David and Ryan Hamm, was a 15-mile traverse of the Enchanted Trails outside Rio Rancho. The meet place was easy to locate and I maneuvered my JK into line behind a string of various makes and models of 4x4's airing down. I dropped my 35's to 15psi and joined the drivers meeting where safety and radio channels were discussed. The trip consisted of NM4W members, and Rio Rancho 4 wheelers members. I saw some familiar faces and did my best to remember names of new faces. It was nice to meet Andrew and Amy, two prospective new members of NM4W out in their Jeep Gladiator.

Co-leader David explained that the planned route was divided into three zones. Zone 1 would be a warm-up as the trail moved up and down the mesas offering several drop offs and blind spots to navigate. Zone 2 is a meandering deeply rutted zone that challenges your decision making. Zone 3 is a more challenging zone with steep ascent and descents and twisting whoop-de-doo's. Drivers choosing not to tackle the more challenging obstacles would have an alternate route available as an option to go around.

At 0900 fifteen rigs were ready to roll. Led by Ryan with David as tail-gun the column of vehicles began their adventure in zone 1. The first obstacle was an uphill climb leading to a blind, right hand turn with a drop-off to the left before descending the steep hill in 4L on the other side. Being 11th in line I moved forward a Jeep length at a time until I watched the Dodge pick-up in front of me climb the hill, make the right and disappear down the other side. Shifting into second I gained some momentum and climbed the hill to the top. I made quick note of where the right turn was and gauged my speed to calculate the when to turn because at the crest my nose was in the air high enough that the trail had disappeared. My co-pilot conveyed any adjustments I needed and we found ourselves on a small plateau looking down the other side. The hillside led to a T in the trail requiring a controlled descent to make the turn. I shifted into first gear and let the Jeep do most of the work as we crawled down the hill and joined the others to watch the rest of the column come down the hill. Several other similar hill obstacles were scattered throughout zone 1 as we made our way slowly across several miles of trail. The trail was immediately interesting and required the driver to be almost constantly engaged with the trail and their surroundings.

Moving into zone 2 we picked-up a little speed as we wound our way through the maze of two-track roads. Three or Four miles down the road, the trail became deeply rutted. Choosing my lines and maneuvering along the ruts without putting a wheel in the ditch commanded my full attention. This stretch continued for approximately a half mile before we cut left into an arroyo and stopped for lunch. The arroyo was a good choice as it provided a place out of the wind and in the sun. Ryan took the opportunity to send up the drone and get some video footage of the vehicles and our socializing.

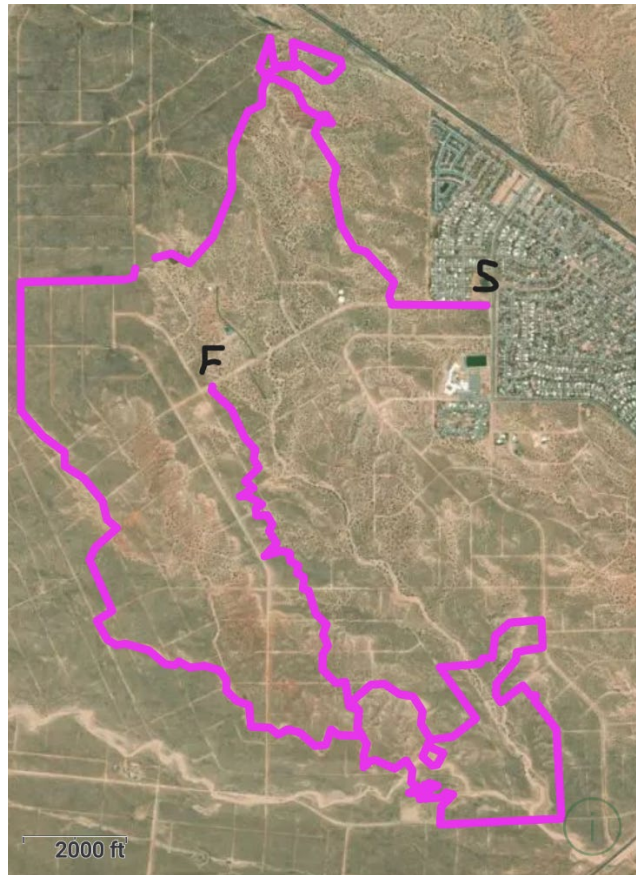


Getting back on the trail we entered Zone 3. There were some sand traps to avoid (or play in) as we made our way through the arroyo. Then a couple of quick runs up and down sandy hills from one arroyo to the next but the most challenging obstacle lay ahead. The column stopped and the lead vehicle ascended a steep hill. Ryan placed cones at the mouth to show us the best line into the zigzagged, narrow, high walled, descent with a sandy chute at the end. Ryan motioned the next vehicle up, explained the plan to them and then he descended. Once at the bottom he parked and began spotting the rest of the group one by one. Although, I could not see what was going on up ahead, I did hear the call for a pullout three different times as I waited my turn.

I climbed the hill to the plateau. There was one vehicle still waiting to start the descent. I parked and got out to survey the route. I watched how it was being done. When it was my turn, I rolled slowly into the zigzagging mini canyon. It was an easy start with most of my concentration focused on staying in the center and cautiously climbing over various sized rocks. Eventually, the trail led to a steep, sandy descent that zigzagged and then dropped down to the floor. Making my way through the zigzag portion was a tricky combination of speed and traction so that the sand and gravity didn't slide me sideways into the wall and rocks. Reaching the final drop, I concentrated on keeping my JK in control, watching the spotters and not overcorrecting. Before I knew it, I was down and taking my place at the bottom.

Now that the excitement was over, we did a little fun driving over whoop-de-doo on a tight serpentine trail. Each vehicle in the column passing each other over and over again as we zig-zagged along the whoop-de-doo. Once through this area of Zone 3 we finished up with an easy drive to the area where we stopped to air-up and say our goodbyes.

I thoroughly enjoyed driving the Enchanted Trail outside Rio Rancho. The terrain had a lot of challenging portions that were spaced nicely along the trail. I had opportunity to both feel the adrenaline that 4-wheeling provides and time to enjoyed the quiet scenery that natural provides. I would recommend this Ride to those off-roaders who want a bit more than a Forest Service road.



Track Recorded with GAIA GPS Application



Tour of Luis Lopez Mining District and Bianca (Nogal) Canyon By Jack Dickey

Our wanderings for this trip took us around Luis Lopez manganese mining district located in the Chupadera Mountains a few miles southwest of Socorro. Chupadera Mountains are made up of volcanic rocks mostly consisting of rhyolite, tuff, welded rhyolite tuff, volcanic breccia, and interlayered flows, plugs, and dykes of rhyolite, andesite, and latite. Faulting and tilting of older volcanic rocks resulted from intrusion of massive rhyolite. Later faulting, along the east side of the mountains, consists of north-south trending en echelon faults associated with the Rio Grande Rift.

Enough about geology, our tour began off of US Highway 60 several miles southwest of Socorro at The Box Recreation Area. The Box is a popular rock-climbing area offering bouldering, top-roping, and lead climbs. Some mapping/GPS programs show the parking area on top of the mesa, but continue down into the canyon for the actual parking area and pit toilet.



Parking Area and Meeting Point – Photo credit: Frank Whiston

After a driver's meeting, shortly before 10:00 AM, 10 vehicles headed out following the trip leader on a wrong turn that took us to the northwest area of the mining district and Gloyana Mine. A fine was levied because the trip leader had pre-run the route. After turning the group around, we headed south on Box Canyon Road and traveled a few miles to Black Canyon and a portion of Torreon Springs Road (two track). Turning left into the canyon, the two-track road goes up to Nancy Mine. Maps show Torreon Springs Road going from the Box Recreation Area past several mines and through to Box Canyon Road. But, between Gloryana and Nancy Mines, the road is impassable to nonexistent.

Small manganese deposits are present throughout the area, but major manganese deposits occur in breccia zones or steeply dipping fault zones in massive rhyolite. Manganese oxide minerals (psilomelane) are of hydrothermal origin and occur as banded vein fillings in rhyolite or stockworks of veinlets cementing breccia. In mid-1950s the district was one of the most productive in the United States.

The two track was easy going except for a small gully that required some dirt shoveling and rock stacking for vehicles that had shallower approach angles. Reaching the mine, the folks spent some time exploring and visiting with one another.



Nancy Mine Headframe – Photo Credit: Richard Steele

Heading back down, we turned back onto Box Canyon Road and continued south passing a corral and stock tanks. Judging by road repairs at arroyo crossings and copious grass, this area saw heavy rains during the summer monsoon. Reaching a high ridge at around noon, the group stopped for lunch. The spot afforded great views of rolling hills cut by arroyos and Magdalena Mountains to the west.

The forecast had an 80% chance of rain beginning at 11:00 AM. So far, the day was mostly cloudy with occasional sunshine. However, dark clouds were building toward the southwest. After leisurely eating sandwiches, fried chicken, homemade mixed nuts, and other gastronomical delights, folks folded up their chairs, loaded up, and continued toward Bianca Canyon. At the next major intersection, marked with both a BLM sign and county road sign, our route headed east on Bianca Ranch Road, passing the Pound (Bianca Ranch) and remnants of old Nogal Ranch buildings.



Old Nogal Ranch Building – Photo Credit: Jack Dickey



NM4W Members in Bianca (Nogal) Canyon, Photo Credit: Frank Whiston

Continuing east, the road became a sandy wash and meandered between near vertical walls of the canyon. Sand/gravel berms and high-water debris was again proof of high flows from summer monsoonal rains.

After a few meanders, the canyon opened up, but cliffs still resided at the edge of the wash. Farther east, toward I-25 San Antonio exit, terrain changed to rolling hills. The group arrived at the west side of the exit around 2:30 PM. A couple of folks, departed the trip at this point. Maybe they had a better sense of the changing weather as there were now sprinkles of rain on our windshields. Our route then made a big U-turn onto Socorro Gun Club Road and headed northwest back toward the Chupadera Mountains. At times this road was a wide graded gravel road then a narrow two track as it traversed ridges and arroyos. Taking a side road, we drove up into the Red Canyon Mine, consisting of a few open pits, where manganese ore was extracted from between steeply angled fault walls. A steady light rain was now falling.

Our route then headed east, then north crossing Red Canyon, and picking up a road going north to Silva (Santo Nino de Atocha) Shrine and Highway 60. A few miles before Highway 60, we turned left head headed up to the Big Basin Mine, a short drift going into the hill side. The group didn't spend much time exploring because the rain had picked up. At times, this road is a somewhat narrow two-track shelf road. There is parking for about ten vehicles at the mine. Although maps show the two-track continuing up the hills and over to Box Canyon Road, there is a locked BLM gate at the mine.

A couple of miles from Highway 60, road conditions deteriorated. Instead of being a little wet, the road surface was now slippery, sticky mud. Our tires looked like chocolate donuts and large clods of mud were being thrown into the air as we made our way. Reaching Highway 60, the rain was falling heavier. Instead of airing-up tires then, everyone made their way into Socorro to find a canopy to air-up out of the rain.

CHECK OUT A BUILD OUR MEMBER JENNIFER CHAPIN WAS PART OF:

2022 FORD BRONCO ALL-FEMALE BUILD AT SEMA 2022: LIVE PHOTO GALLERY

[2022 Ford Bronco All-Female Build At SEMA 2022: Live Photo Gallery \(fordauthority.com\)](https://fordauthority.com/2022-Ford-Bronco-All-Female-Build-At-SEMA-2022-Live-Photo-Gallery)





2022 Social Media High Flyers

By Frank Whiston

Here's the top 9 furthest reaching NM4W social media posts. Although a small fraction of the 36 events from our 2022 calendar, it serves as a nice summary of the club's year. Starting at the top left, here's the trip posts that got the most traction on Facebook/Instagram

1. Gordy's Week Later Birthday Party! April 23, 2022 Leader Don Roy
2. 2022 Summer Jemez Ride August 20, 2022 Leader Jeff Boggs
3. Luis Lopez Mining District December 3, 2022 Leaders Jack and Cathy Dickey
4. West Mesa Ride 2022 January 22, 2022 Leader Jeff Boggs (post 2 of 2)
5. West Mesa Ride 2022 January 22, 2022 Leader Jeff Boggs (post 1 of 2)
6. Green River Utah Trip May 7-14, 2022 Leader Cliff Meyer
7. Riley Ghost Town and Area Run February 12, 2022 Leader Jack Dickey (post 2 of 2)
8. Riley Ghost Town and Area Run February 12, 2022 Leader Jack Dickey (post 1 of 2)
9. Magdalena Mountains September 24, 2022 Leaders Jack and Cathy Dickey





An Update on the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges BLM Comment Period (Southern Utah)

Thanks to all of you who sent comments in during the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges Bureau of Land Management Comment period.

At this time, no decision has been made as to which option the BLM has chosen. With over **7,000+ comments** submitted it will take some time to reach a decision.



#SAVELAKEMEAD



Defend Lake Mead and Lake Powell: Don't Let Bureau of Reclamation and National Park Service Close Our Reservoirs

Dec 9, 2022 | Arizona, California, Colorado, Dispersed Camping, Fill Lake Powell, Motorboat, National Park Service, Nevada, New Mexico, Overlanding, Personal Watercraft, River Raft/Kayak/Canoe, Uncategorized, Utah, Wyoming | 19 comments

UPDATE: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED UNTIL JANUARY 22, 2023. IMPORTANT: IT IS IMPORTANT TO READ THE FULL BRIEFING BEFORE YOU COMMENT. THIS ACTION ALERT FORM BELOW WILL SEND COMMENTS TO BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS. THERE ARE CURRENTLY TWO PLANNING PROCESSES THAT ARE INTERRELATED, AND LAKE MEAD USERS NEED TO BE SUBMITTING FEEDBACK ON BOTH PROCESSES. OUR ACTION ALERT FORM WILL ENBLE YOU TO COMMENT ON BOTH PROCESSES AT ONCE.

Full Briefing:

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) will be accepting public comment until **December 20, 2022**. Bureau of Reclamation will be [adapting the 2007 Interim Guidelines](#) to address current low water levels in Lake Powell and Lake Mead in order to adequately address hydrology, economy and agricultural needs due to unprecedented low water levels. The Department of Interior recognizes, "given that water levels continue to decline, additional action is needed to protect the System".

BlueRibbon Coalition has been involved in the public comment process throughout 2022 in order to create guiding principles that will support continued use and sustainable water levels on Lake Powell as well as Lake Mead. Thousands of our members have also submitted comments as the Bureau of Reclamation has started the process to draft the [2026 Operating Guidelines](#). However, a supplementary Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) is needed to address low water levels until the new 2026 guidelines are created. This is why we are having this current comment period. BOR will create alternatives in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that will address future conditions on the Colorado River Basin. The preliminary proposed action would, “decrease the quantity of water that shall be apportioned for consumptive use in the Lower Division States (Arizona, California, and Nevada)” and “to modify and/or reduce the quantity of water released from Glen Canyon Dam.” It would also provide a mid-year review to analyze current conditions in the two reservoirs.

We have previously released our plan for the [Path to 3588'](#) to stabilize the lake levels of Lake Mead and Lake Powell that was recognized by the Bureau of Reclamation. We encourage you to comment to BOR that they should strongly consider this plan as they create this (SEIS) and develop alternatives. Also, we believe the BOR should recognize the value of recreation in all of the developed alternatives.

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, outdoor recreation had a record breaking year in 2021. Outdoor recreation now accounts for \$821 billion in economic activity. For reference, the oil and gas industry is \$812 billion. Outdoor recreation is popular. It is an economic juggernaut. Yet, public land agencies act as if this nearly \$1 trillion dollar industry is optional or an afterthought. Instead of building new ramps, campgrounds, and infrastructure to accommodate the new growth in outdoor recreation, land managers are relentlessly closing areas and resources for the public to use. It doesn't make any sense.

[This is exactly what is happening with Lake Mead](#). The National Park Service is currently accepting comments on a [proposal](#) to either adapt current recreation amenities and infrastructure or to either temporarily or permanently close marinas, ramps, and facilities. **This comment period ends on January 22, 2023**, and NPS staff have told us that if Bureau of Reclamation doesn't adopt a plan to stabilize and recover the lake levels, NPS won't have much choice for keeping facilities open at Lake Mead.

Because it is complicated to appropriately comment to both agencies that will be impacting the future of these reservoirs, we have prepared an action alert (at the top of this page) that will send your comments to both agencies at the same time. We have included feedback you can send that will share your support for our Path to 3588' Plan to stabilize the water levels at both reservoirs. We have also placed a special emphasis on supporting the National Park Service in choosing an option to make adaptations to current facilities to keep infrastructure on Lake Mead open (referred to as Option 1 in the plan). It is our hope that the users of both lakes will unite in support of these efforts since the operation of both lakes is completely interconnected. Please enter your address in the form above to let the tool know which member of Congress to send the message to, then you will see and have ability to edit the message. When you send the message it will go to appropriate contacts at Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, and the offices of your members of Congress.

Save Lake Mead!

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

NM4W Officers

<p>President Cliff Meier pres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Membership Chairman Jack Dickey vpres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Cathy Arlowe sec@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Rich Steele treas@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Cathy Dickey prog@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank Whiston hist@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs trips@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Vacant envdir@nm4w.org</p>	

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, webadmin@nm4w.org
 Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



February 1, 2023

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Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2023

By Cathy Arlowe and Jeff Boggs

The meeting was held at North Domingo Multi-Generational Center (7521 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque 87113) and was hosted by Jack Dickey serving some mini pecan pies and cookies. Bottled water was available, also.

President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

GUESTS:

Jeff Grenier, Joe Hoffman, Timothy Marrs I, Scott Potter, Zachary Rodgers, Jon Trepan

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Boggs, Guy Conway, Jack Dickey, Aimee Domines, David Ham, Ryan Ham, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, Jack Nutter, Chris Otto, Christine Robson, Steve Robson, Phil Rodacy, Don Roy, Andrew Schwebke, Richard Steele, Wayne Sullivan, Frank Whiston

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Jack Dickey.

Welcomes guests and explains the point system and membership.

New Member Applications: Andrew Schwebke and Amies Domines are voted in as members without discussion.

Transgression Fines: Richard Steele paid fine for getting stuck in the mud at Tea Cup Crossing. Jeff Boggs paid fine for getting stuck at Tea Cup Crossing. Abesh Mubarakhi was fined but not present, to pay his fine for getting stuck in a sandy hole while attempting to turn around. All these fines were from the Cabezon Peak 2023!! Ride.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Cathy Arlowe. Jeff Boggs subbing for Cathy Arlowe (Get Well soon). The meeting minutes from the December 2022 meeting were accepted as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT -Rich Steele. Rich reported that the checking account had \$6,752.75, the savings account has \$8,642.29 for a total of \$ 15,395.04.

Richard leads a discussion concerning a spreadsheet he has developed breaking down expenses. He also brought up some information he has gathered concerning Liability Insurance that would cover club officers, board members and volunteers. Officers Insurance. An open questions and answers period followed. More details are needed on this topic. A yet to be determined officer meeting will study this further and report back to the club in the future.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –Jeff Boggs.

A special award was given out to Ryan and David Ham for leading their first club run. Thanks for helping make this a better club by leading a ride!!

Past Events:

December 13, 2022; Jemez Mountains Dispersed Recreation Management Collaborative Meeting. Jack Dickey discussed this online meeting. The future of recreation in the Jemez mountains will be determined as a result of this and future meetings.

December 18, 2022; Christmas Tree Run. Jack Nutter, ride leader discussed this ride in the Jemez Mts.

January 7, 2023; Cabezon Peak Ride. Jeff Boggs gave a report on this well attended ride.

Future Events: All these rides are on the club website under Calendar section

January 14, 2023; GMRS RADIO INFORMATION SESSION. Cliff Meier is having a get together at his house to discuss and educate us on the use of GMRS radios.

Starting on January 18, 2023; Winter 4x4 Jamboree. See details on the website

January 22, 2023; West Mesa Ride. Jeff Boggs trail leader

February 4, 2023; Ladron Peak Exploratory. Jeff Boggs leads this ride

February 9, 2023; NM4W February Meeting. North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center at 7:00 p.m. (Jeff Boggs, host)

February 18, 2023; Semi Exploratory East of Manzano Mts Ride. Cliff Meier leads this ride.

March 4, 2023; Exploring the East Side of the San Mateo Mts, Apache Peak Area Ride. Jeff Boggs leads this ride.

March 9, 2023; NM4W March Meeting. North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center at 7:00 p.m. (Jeanne Meier, host)

April 13, 2023; NM4W April Meeting. North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center at 7:00 p.m. (host needed)

Starting April 25, 2023; Moab, Utah. Hard/Difficult Tails - Multi Day Rides. Jack Dickey is leading this ride.

April 30 through May 6, 2023; Annual Green River, Utah multi-day rides. Cliff Meier leading this ride.

Starting July 22, 2023; ALL-4-Fun Mile High Jeep Club, Colorado.

Members are advised to check the Calendar frequently for new rides. Members are encouraged to step up and help lead rides for the club.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT – Don Roy. Members are encouraged to write up articles and rides for our monthly newsletter.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – This position is still vacant. Jack Dickey- covered the last meeting involving the future plans for the Jemez Mountains.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT – Cathy Dickey. Cathy Dicky was not present. No raffle tonight. A motion to give \$400 to restock our SWAG was passed. \$400 will be given to the program chair to purchase more T shirts, hats, etc.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank Whiston. Frank asked that members download their pictures to the website.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT - Don Roy. Don updated the condition of our website.

OLD BUSINESS:

Club is changing over from CB radio to GMRS radios.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cliff Meier reminds members that we will need new officers later this year. Consider helping the club by becoming an officer.

No Raffle tonight.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:10 p.m.

	President's Report
	By Cliff Meier

Can you believe it! The first month of 2023 is over. We have started with a bang with nine rides or events either completed or scheduled through April. During my membership with the club this is most this early in the year. Most years this time is a bit slow. Members have stepped up to lead these rides especially Jeff Boggs who has led or signed up to lead nine rides. In addition to the rides, we had a GMRS radio information/training session that had 25 club members attend. Don't know if the free burgers had anything to do with the attendance but in any case, the session went very well with most of the questions answered. Thanks to Ed Kausche for leading this session.

An important reminder, starting with the Feb 10th club meeting, the starting time has been moved to **6:30pm from 7:00pm**. This was done to allow more time for the meeting until we have vacate the room at about 8:00pm.

The last meeting at the rec center will be the April meeting. After that we will change to our summer meeting routine when we meet at member's homes on Saturdays. I need volunteers to host these meetings through September.



VP Soap Box and Sherriff's Blotter

By Jack Dickey

I was remiss in not preparing a Vice President's report for the January newsletter so, I'll do my best to cover the last two months.

Congratulations to Aimee Domines and Andrew Schwebke for attaining 5 points and being approved by the membership as Voting Members! They have a stable full of capable rigs including a 2022 Jeep JT Gladiator Rubicon and a 1993 Jeep YJ rock crawler. I'm sure we'll see more of them at meetings and trail rides!

We had one applicant at our January meeting:

- Jeff Grenier – 1993 Jeep YJ Wrangler, 2.5" lift, 33" tires, and other modification to improve its capabilities.

There were several applicants/guests attending their first rides in December and January:

- Iffy Khan – 2008 Jeep JKUR with 4.5" of lift, 35" tires, 5.7L Hemi and lots of other stuff to get through the rough stuff!
- Scott Potter – 2010 Toyota Tacoma with 3" lift
- Zachary Rodgers – 2023 Nissan Frontier Pro-4X
- Jon Trepanier – 2022 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon

Welcome Jeff, Iffy, Scott, Zachary, and Jon. Glad you found us and attended your 1st meeting and/or ride. Let me or any member know if you have questions about NM4W and membership. All of us look forward to seeing each of you at meetings and trail rides.

There were a few trail ride transgression fines levied in December and January:

- The sheriff (that's me) during the Luis Lopez/Bianca Canyon ride for a wrong turn out of the parking area although the route had been pre-run.
- Jeff Boggs during the Cabazon Area ride for getting stuck re-entering a muddy water crossing, after successfully making it through the first time.
- Rich Steele during the Cabazon Area ride for blindly following Jeff into the mud hole and a passive attempt to get through.

Remember you can turn yourself or a member may rat-you-out for your trail ride transgressions and it's all in good fun 😊.



Cabazon Peak Ride

By Jeff Boggs

We met up at San Ysidro, NM on Sat Jan 7, 2023. Fourteen 4x4's showed up. We had a drivers meeting and then aired down, because we took the Cabazon Road and that put us on dirt real quick.

Scott Potter and Zach Rodgers joined us for the first time. Zach in a nice new Nissan Frontier and Scott in a well built Toyota Tacoma. We had nice road conditions most of the day, thanks to some recent moisture, the dust was not too bad. Dust was an issue later in the day on the well traveled dirt roads.

Most of the way up the pipeline road, we made a turn to the East and soon found a primitive two track dirt road, following a power line. We were having fun, in low range. Nice canyons. I got to a stream crossing that looked like it would be muddy. It was. I barely got to the other side as there seemed there was no solid bottom. Rich gave it a try, but the mud sucked him in good, right in the middle of the watery muck.

Scott came in behind him, on solid ground and a tow strap was hooked up. Rich got pulled back out.

Now it was my turn to get back across this mess, where everyone else was watching this entertainment from the hill above.



I nearly made it back across, but I needed a strap for clearing the last two inches of mud. We turned around and got back to a nice dirt road. Had a nice lunch and visit on a sandstone area, above a canyon. In the afternoon we drove back to the West of Cabazon and got into some nice mesas and canyons.

Turning off the main road, we followed an exploratory. little used two track. I spotted an old house ruins off to the left and soon found a dirt road going over to it. There ended up being 2 old rock walled buildings there. We

parked and walked over to each building.

Got some pictures and talked about possible histories that might have been for these dwelling, way out in the middle of nowhere. There was a spring, so water was an important reason.

Time to head home. We made good time on the dirt roads back to highway 550 and were airing up at 5pm. A fun day and we had this area to ourselves most of the day. New Mexico is a great place to get out into the backcountry and explore.

Thanks to everyone who attended.

Thanks to Jack and Cathy Dickey for tail gunning for the group. We used all 3 types of radios and that helped everyone stay in touch.

Check out the pictures Gallery section of the website.



West Mesa Ride

By Jeff Boggs



Fourteen 4x4's showed up for this ride out into the West Mesa Area of Rio Rancho, NM Hills and sand and arroyos, with rugged two track roads cover this area. We started out with a hill climb, followed by a technical flex section that tested each vehicle's articulation and the driver's ability to read a good line through this area. One truck got jammed in good with the rear bumper hung up and

tires lost traction. Out came the tow rope and once hooked up to the big Chevy truck and to the rear recovery point in the back of the Tacoma, it took just a quick pull to free up the vehicle. A quick change of his approach and the section was finished.

We worked our way out west and into a canyon area with several twisty arroyos. The trail leader made a wrong turn, but was quickly back on the trail. We had lunch in this area.

After lunch we headed north and got into another long narrow arroyo. This had an exit up a two foot ledge that had to be turned into to start the climb.

Later this arroyo gave way to a rugged two track that took us to a great overlook. To the north we could see the Jemez Mts, covered in snow.

Time to head for home . We aired up near Unser. A good day, great folks, and we had a few challenges along the way.

TOP TIRE JACKS FOR OFF-ROAD ADVENTURES

REPRINT FROM TRED MAGAZINE



ALL JACKED UP

WHICH TIRE JACK IS RIGHT FOR YOUR RIG?

A few years ago, I was helping lead a group trip along the Continental Divide when one of the participants badly sliced a tire on his Tacoma on a back road in Wyoming. My wife and I were riding tail gunner.

As we pulled up, the driver had already chocked the wheels, retrieved the factory scissors tire jack and had placed it under the rear axle. But he was failing completely in his efforts to raise the axle and tire, straining mightily, but futilely, on the crank handle.

Why? Because mounted on the back of the Tacoma was a four-wheeled camper—which, in turn, was loaded with water, food and supplies for a two-week trip.

We stopped, I got out my 4-ton hydraulic bottle jack, and we effortlessly lifted the truck and swapped the tire.



(Left to right) Pro Eagle, Hi-Lift, Safe Jack, ARB X-Jack, Surplus M998 Scissors Jack and Agile Off Road Chassis Adapter, ARB Jack

With very few exceptions, such as the superb, Italian-made hydraulic bottle jack that's supplied with solid-axle Land Rovers, factory-supplied jacks are designed to minimal specs to lift the vehicle—*on pavement*—just high enough to change a tire. Load that vehicle up with bumpers, winches, roof racks, camping gear or a camper, and you might find that jack whimpering under the load. (Actually, *you'd* be the one whimpering.)

If you want something that can handle a tire change on a loaded vehicle, as well as take care of recovery duties—for example, to lift the vehicle off a high-centered situation or shovel substrate under a bogged tire or insert MaxTrax—you need to step up the game with something rated to at least half the GVWR of your rig.

Then, you have a major decision to make: Do you want to lift from up top, via a bumper or slider, or from below, via an axle or chassis?

CONSIDER A BUMPER JACK

The advantage of a bumper jack is that you don't have to crawl under the vehicle to lift it. That's nice for staying clean, but it's also possibly critical if your 4×4 is buried right to the axles in sand, mud or water. With very few exceptions...factory-supplied jacks are designed to minimal specs to lift the vehicle — on pavement — just high enough to change a tire.

DISADVANTAGES

First, your vehicle must be equipped with sturdy, recovery-capable bumpers in front and rear—and preferably with rock sliders as well—that will accept the jack's tongue. Second, to lift a tire off the ground with a bumper jack, you first have to cycle through the vehicle's full suspension travel, which can mean a foot or more of wasted elevation and could leave the vehicle precariously tippy.

Finally, bumper jacks tend to be heavy and bulky.

HOW ABOUT AN AXLE/CHASSIS JACK?

The axle/chassis jack is compact (with the exception of the Pro Eagle); it doesn't waste lifting height to raise a punctured tire; and, with a few accessories, it can perform a variety of recovery tasks. However, access to the underside of the vehicle is mandatory, and bottle jacks, in particular, tend to have limited lifting range—often only 6 or 7 inches, unless you buy a double-extension model, which will increase that by another 4 or 5 inches. Even so, this is still paltry when compared to the 30 inches or more of a bumper jack.

My suggestion: If you mostly need a sturdy jack for tire-changing and occasional recovery work, look at the chassis jacks here. If you like to challenge yourself and your vehicle, and you frequently find yourself a bit buried, consider making room for one of the bumper jacks or the ARB X-Jack.

Powerful hydraulics make lifting with the ARB Jack easy and lowering is a one-finger operation.

HI-LIFT JACK

How many products survive a century virtually unchanged? The antediluvian Hi-Lift still scores points in this group because of its low price, rugged simplicity, ease of refurbishment and versatility. It's the only product here that will also function as a clamp or a (very slow) winch. The Hi-Lift's 4,660-pound rating has become the de facto standard for competitors, and in this group, its range of lift is second only to the ARB Jack.



The venerable Hi-Lift still has its strengths, including a 4,660-pound capacity.

Downsides include the Hi-Lift's 29-pound mass and jam-prone lifting mechanism (the latter issue is usually rectified with a dousing of almost any lubricant, including Keystone Light (according to my nephew). But the big, red flag in the Hi-Lift's manual of arms, as anyone who's used one knows, is the "zone of disfigurement" circumscribed by the arc the handle makes. Let your head stray inside this arc, whether you're raising or lowering your vehicle, and you're asking for a broken nose or jaw if you lose your grip.

MSRP: \$100 (48-inch; all cast)

URL: hi-lift.com

ARB JACK

Think of the ARB Jack as a Hi-Lift that went to a very expensive finishing school: The coarse, mechanical mechanism is gone, replaced with smooth and powerful hydraulics (in fact, my 110-pound wife can lift the entire loaded rear end of our 70-Series Troop carrier on her own).



Powerful hydraulics make lifting with the ARB JACK easy ...



... and lowering is a one-finger operation.

At a demo I gave at the Overland Expo using the front of an FJ40, one lifelong Hi-Lift user walked up, gave the handle exactly one pump and said, “That’s all I needed to see.” He then headed for the ARB booth.



There’s zero possibility of face-altering kickback, and lowering is literally a one-finger operation. To adjust the lifting tongue to bumper height, you only have to lift the tongue, itself, to the appropriate slot on the aluminum body, leaving the full lifting range of the jack intact—up to 48 inches. It’s 15 percent lighter than a Hi-Lift and only 36 inches long in its carrying case. The sealed mechanism won’t jam in dusty conditions, and the base even has a clever cutout to facilitate breaking the bead on a tire. What’s not to like? (I just hope you’re sitting down when you see its price.)

MSRP: \$833

URL: arbusa.com

SAFE JACK BOTTLE JACK KIT

There might be more-versatile jack systems around, but none that also fits into a .50-caliber ammo can.



The 27-pound Safe Jack “Sergeant” kit comprises a 6-ton hydraulic bottle jack, flat and curved lifting attachments, and three extension posts, one of which is adjustable. Other Safe Jack kits, from “Private” to “General,” include fewer or more extras (all of these are available separately). The range of extensions allows you to lift from an axle, the chassis or a bumper, as needed.



Safe Jack nesting wheel chocks are essential for safe lifting.



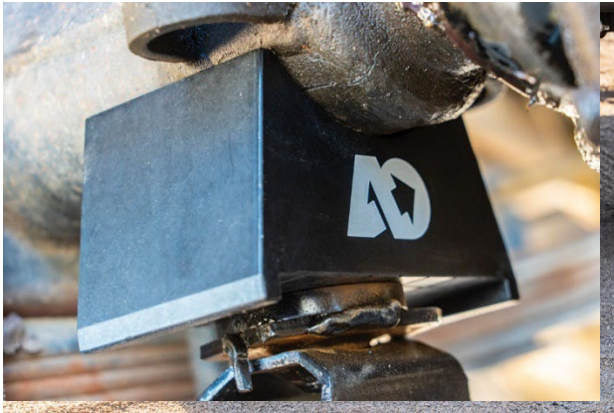
Its compact size limits the included jack to 6 inches of extension. However, as long as the post is compatible, you could pair the Safe Jack attachments to any bottle jack you like, such as the double-extension model I own. In fact, my Safe Jack kit hasn't yet met a vehicle it couldn't lift.

MSRP: \$269

URL: safejacks.com

SURPLUS M998 SCISSORS JACK AND AGILE OFF ROAD CHASSIS ADAPTER

Gotta love military surplus. The heavy-duty (3.5-ton) scissors jack configured to lift the front or rear A-arms of a high-mobility, multipurpose, wheeled vehicle—"Humvee" to most of us—is available by the score on eBay with a case, ratchet handle and extension rods for around \$75. Add Agile Off Road's reversible, billet-aluminum adapter, and it'll securely support your noncombat vehicle at either the axle or chassis.



Surplus M998 Scissors Jack and Agile Off Road Axle/Chassis Adapter

A reversible ratcheting handle means you don't have to crank in a complete circle in a confined space (a brilliant idea), and as long as your truck weighs less than an up-armored HMMWV, this jack will lift it easily to a height of 20.5 inches with the adapter in place.

The reversible Agile Off Road Adapter provides secure support for either an axle or a chassis.

A generous, 7×12-inch base plate ensures support in Middle Eastern-theater sand (or any other kind). The lifting post on the jack has a bit of wobble built in, so Agile Off Road recommends tack-welding it to increase stability. I used it as is and had zero problems.

MSRP: \$75 (scissors jack); \$90 (chassis adapter)

URL: agileoffroad.com

PRO EAGLE OFF ROAD JACK

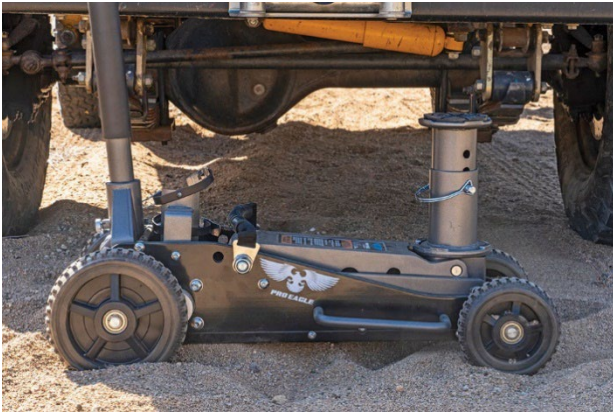
A floor jack with off-road tires; why didn't someone think of this *before*?

Take a 2-ton, hydraulic floor jack—the easiest way ever to lift a vehicle on a concrete driveway—add solid axles and burly, composite wheels, and you've got an all-terrain floor jack.



The 2-ton Pro Eagle Off Road Jack

The Pro Eagle rolled over my gravel driveway effortlessly and lifted the entire front end of my FJ40 in a sandy wash without digging in more than a couple of inches. Given the fat tires, along with a full-length underbody "skid plate," it shouldn't sink in any substrate that doesn't have a current. Pop on the adjustable extension post for a full 26 inches of lift height.



Safe Jack “Sergeant” kit certainly wouldn’t carry this bulky, 52-pound jack for field duty in my FJ40, but if you’ve got a full-sized truck or Sprinter (there’s also a 3-ton version) or are traveling with a group, it’ll make any recovery a breeze. And, of course, at home, it’s an excellent shop jack.

One operational note: As with all such jacks, the lifting pad moves through an arc

as it rises. If you employ the extension, and both the jack and vehicle are stationary, the extension can wind up significantly tilted. So, plan ahead.

MSRP: \$440

URL: proeagle.com

ARB X-JACK EXHAUST JACK

Some of the jacks discussed here are easy to operate. Some are difficult to operate. Only one is effortless to operate.

Situate the deflated ARB X-Jack under the chassis of your 4×4. Hold the inflation cone over the exhaust pipe or connect an air compressor to the Schrader valve. The expanding bag will lift up to 4,400 pounds up to 30 inches in the air.

“IF YOU WANT SOMETHING THAT CAN HANDLE A TIRE CHANGE ON A LOADED VEHICLE, AS WELL AS TAKE CARE OF RECOVERY DUTIES ... YOU NEED TO STEP UP THE GAME WITH SOMETHING RATED TO AT LEAST HALF THE GVWR OF YOUR RIG.”



The ARB X Jack offers unequalled flotation in soft sand.

Is your truck buried to the bumpers, with no way to get a bottle jack or Hi-Lift underneath? All you need is 4 inches of scooped clearance for this jack to slide underneath. Stuck in rocks, with no secure base for a bumper jack? The X-Jack molds itself around virtually any substrate, and the hard rubber “teeth” on the bottom help prevent slippage.



Let your engine do the lifting work with the X Jack.

Included is a thick square of guard material to protect the already-stout envelope, but it's best to remember that this thing is still a heavy-duty balloon. Consequently, make sure to keep it away from bolt ends and hot exhaust pipes. Also remember that at full height, your vehicle is supported on air inside a flexible casing, so expect a bit of squidginess. But then,

you wouldn't get under a vehicle that's supported only by *any* of these jacks, right?

MSRP: \$270

URL: arbusa.com

CHOCKS FOR TIRE JACKS

A jack isn't the only item you need for safe tire changes and recovery work. You also need a way to ensure the vehicle remains stationary and doesn't roll off the jack. Additionally, you need a way to ensure the base of the jack doesn't sink in sand or mud.

The best vehicle chocks I've used are the nesting units from Safe Jack, which are substantial enough to anchor the vehicle for winching, as well as jacking. In addition, the best base plate I've used is the ARB unit. It's configured to accept ARB's jack *and* a Hi-Lift. Very smart.



The ARB jack base accepts either an ARB jack or a Hi-Lift foot.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

NM4W Officers

<p>President Cliff Meier pres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Membership Chairman Jack Dickey vpres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Cathy Arlowe sec@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Rich Steele treas@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Cathy Dickey prog@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank Whiston hist@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs trips@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Vacant envdir@nm4w.org</p>	

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, webadmin@nm4w.org

Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



March 1, 2023

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org



Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2023
By Jeanne Meier

The meeting was at North Domingo Multi-Generational Center (7521 Carmel Ave. NE, Albuquerque 87113) and was hosted by Jeff Boggs.

President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

GUESTS:

Chris Eyrich, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, Brendan Hodgson, Fay Marrs, Timothy Marrs I, Ronnie McCall, Kelly Pedersen, Scott Potter, Jon Trepanier, William Zobel.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tracy Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Guy Conway, Jack Dickey, Cathy Dickey, David Ham, Rebecca Ham, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, Jack Nutter, Chris Otto, Christine Robson, Steve Robson, Don Roy, Richard Steele, Wayne Sullivan

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jack Dickey.

Jack welcomed the guests and reviewed the points system, explaining it takes 5 points to be eligible for membership. In addition, there is an annual award for the most active member.

Michael O'Connell from Texas would like an Associate membership in the club to participate in some runs. He was approved for associate membership.

Jon Trepanier, Ronnie McCall, and William Sobel were voted in as new members.

Transgression Fines: Jeff Boggs paid a fine for a wrong turn on his run. Even though it was exploratory the error occurred in a part of the trail he knew well. Cliff Meier also paid a fine for a wrong turn since as tail-gunner he should know where to turn.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Cathy Arlowe. Cathy was not present, so Jeanne Meier took the minutes. The meeting minutes from the January 2023 meeting were accepted as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rich Steele. Rich reported that the checking account had \$6,652.59, the savings account has \$8,644.49 for a total of \$15,297.08.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Jeff Boggs.

Past Events:

Starting January 18, 2023: Winter 4x4 Jamboree – Hurricane Utah

January 22, 2023: West Mesa Ride, Jeff Boggs leader: There was a good turn out for this run.

January 29, 2023: Gordy's hill exploratory, Jack Nutter leader: There was a mix of vehicles so at a point they split the group into two groups with Bill Bonahoom taking an extreme run and Jack Nutter took the other group to Hidden Canyon. It was a good day.

February 4, 2023: Ladrone Peak, Jeff Boggs leader: The run went pretty well starting out on a road to a ranch house before continuing further west. It was a long day, getting off trail after dark.

Future Events: All these rides are on the club website under Calendar section.

Sat Feb 18, 8:00am Ride: Semi Exploratory East of the Manzano Mts. Cliff Meier leader Meet Love's Travel Stop, Belen NM

Sat Mar 4, 9:00am Ride: Exploring the East side of San Mateo Mts, Apache Peak area Jeff Boggs Leader. Meet at Chevron Gas Station, south side of Socorro, NM Exit 147, gas up and leave at 9:30.

Thu Mar 9, 6:30pm Club: Meeting_March NM4W Meeting_North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center Jeanne Meier host

Sat Apr 1, 8:30am Ride: NM BDR exploration Jeff Boggs

Thu Apr 13, 6:30pm: Club Meeting April NM4W Meeting_North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center Hostess Shirley Godfrey

Tue Apr 25-Sun Apr 30 Ride: Moab Utah Hard/Difficult Trails - Multi Day Jack Dickey leader

Sun Apr 30-Sat May 6 Ride: Annual Green River, UT Multi Day Ride Cliff Meier coordinator Guy Conway leader

Thu Jun 1-Sun Jun 4 Event: Rock Junction and Rocky Mountain Offroad xpo_Rock Junction, 21 Road, Fruita, CO

Fri Jun 16-Mon Jun 19 Ride: Weekend Camping Trip in the Northern Jemez

Fri Jul 14-Sun Jul 16 Ride: Overland to Colorado

Sat Jul 22-Fri Jul 28 Event: All-4-Fun 2023 (Mile High Jeep Club) Empire, Colorado

Sat Oct 14 Ride: Solar Eclipse Ride

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT – Don Roy. Members are encouraged to write articles and ride reports for our monthly newsletter.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – This position is still vacant. Jack Dickey- The group making future plans for the Jemez Mountains hadn't met. At the end of the year some people retire or move to other positions so there is always a delay at this point.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT – Cathy Dickey. Cathy had hats, stickers, and license plates for purchase and free pamphlets and cards for members to use in recruiting new members. She indicated the artwork is now done for the club logo on t-shirts. She does have very large or small shirts in stock and the order has been placed for more shirts in common sizes and should be available at the next meeting. She also indicated the order came to \$545 which exceeded the amount authorized and asked to be reimbursed. A motion was made to reimburse her for the amount over the \$400.00 authorized limit and passed. She was selling tickets for the 50-50 raffle.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank Whiston. Frank was not present but members were reminded to upload pictures to the website.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT - Don Roy. Don indicated he hadn't made any changes this month.

OLD BUSINESS:

The club is changing over from CB radio to GMRS radios. There was some discussion of the different radios and antennas.

A committee had been created to determine ways the club might spend the money we collect. At the January meeting one of these ideas, to purchase a liability insurance policy to protect the club and the officers was presented. Rich had found a company that insures NMOHVA. The company has a policy for either \$1,000,000 or \$2,000,000. Since this is a recurring expense, Rich is developing an annual budget based on dues versus expenses and ignoring any excess revenue in the treasury. This month Rich reported additional information on what the policy would cover and reported that at current revenue and expense levels there is approximately \$1635 uncommitted revenue cover the premium. The premium on \$1,000,000 policy is \$796.00 and the \$2,000,000 policy is \$1208.00. A motion was made to purchase the \$1,000,000 policy but after discussion the motion was amended to purchase the \$2,000,000 policy. Motion passed.

Jack Dickey indicated he was considering running for president in the next election but he is not willing to do it if there is not a full roster of candidates. Last month, Cliff Meier had indicated he would not be available for another term.

NEW BUSINESS:

Host are needed for summer meetings!!

Tracy Bakewell won the 50/50 raffle.

MEETING ADJOURNED.



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

Just a few words this month. The club has been active with several runs and more in the next several months. Everything from day runs, multiday camping trips, and multiday trips to Moab and Green River, UT. Also, the club picnic/meeting is on the calendar for Jun 10. A host is needed for the picnic, the picnic site at Oak Flats has already been reserved but someone is needed to plan and take care of the food that the club will furnish, normally it has been burgers and hot dogs. In addition, hosts are needed for the July and September meeting at members' homes. The hosts will determine the dates and times for these meetings. These meetings include a potluck. Check the club calendar for any changes in these runs and meetings.

The club's membership is steadily growing with several prospective new members joining us for runs each month. On average we have had 3-5 for each ride. If you want club business cards or flyers, see me at the meeting.

As promised, I am reminding all members that officer elections are not that far away, July. Let me know if you are interested in running for an office. Under the documents section of the website in the SOPs, under Organizational, are the duties of each office.



Vice President's Soap Box

By Jack Dickey

Congratulations to Jon Trepanier and William Zobel for each attaining 5 points and being approved by the membership as Voting Members! Jon has a 2022 Jeep Gladiator Rubicon. William has a 2006 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited. Both have attended several rides and meetings. We look forward to seeing each of you for many more meetings and rides.

There were two applicants who attended their first meeting February:

- Ronnie McCall drives a 2022 Ford Bronco that is slightly modified with a 2.5" lift and 37" Toyo M/T tires.
- Kelly Pedersen and Brendan Hodgson

The membership approved two Associate Memberships during the February meeting:

- Michael O'Connell, Sugar Land, Texas drives a nicely built 2016 Jeep Rubicon JKU, soft top, half doors, Metal Cloak 4 1/2" lift, Dana Ultimate 60 axles, Nitto 40" tire, and hydro-assist.
- Matt McDaid, Arroyo Seco, New Mexico drives a stock 1989 Toyota pickup with a small lift.

Welcome Ronnie, Kelly, Brendan, Michael, and Matt. All of us are glad you found us and look forward to seeing each of you at meetings and/or trail rides. Let me or any member know if you have questions about NM4W and membership.

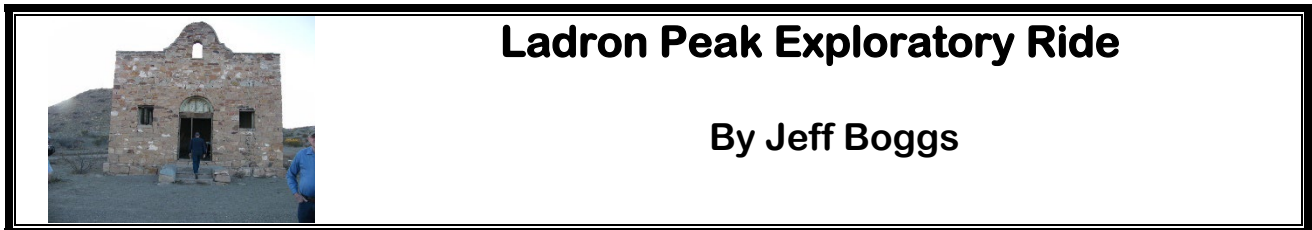
There were several transgression fines levied at the February meeting:

- The vice president/sheriff (that's me) during the February meeting for forgetting to call for a membership vote.
- Scott Potter for getting slightly stuck during the January West Mesa ride.
- Cliff Meyer during the February Ladron Peak ride. Cliff forgot to close a gate and had to turn around to get it although the trip leader reminded him to close it before going through.

Remember you can turn yourself in or a member may rat-you-out for your trail ride or meeting transgressions. It's all in good fun 😊.

Lastly, I encourage all members to occasionally read the club bylaws and standard operating procedures. These are located on the club website under the documents/organizational tabs. These are easy reading and contain a lot of important information about how the club operates and officer duties.

Happy Trails!



We met at Love's Truck Stop in Belen, NM on a nice day for Feb. We drove south on I-25, to Hwy 60 exit. We aired down there and met William Crawley. He drove over from Datil, NM in his older Jeep pickup.

It was very dusty on CR 12 going around the north side of Ladron Peak. We took a small dirt road over to the base of Ladron and checked out an old abandoned ranch house. Great views all around.

Back down to Riley, NM, and off into the back country for a nice lunch on some sandstone.

After lunch, we took off on very rugged roads into BLM and NF areas. Several sandstone play areas in the arroyo.

Little patches of snow and a little mud, but mostly dry roads. We made it to Fall Spring and checked out the small waterfall in the box canyon. Back tracking to an arroyo, which we followed it for a while. We took a little used dirt road back to CR 12. Some of us checked out the Riley ghost town ruins.

All this exploring ended up with us all having to drive back on CR 12 in the dark. A full Moon was the only lights out there except our headlights peering through the dusty conditions. A few cows on the road were the wildlife. Last was airing up and back to town. Thanks to everyone for exploring the area around Ladron peak.



Repeaters and GMRS

By Ed Kausche

The South West Radio Community Service (swcrs.org) operates a fairly extensive network of GMRS repeaters throughout the states of Arizona and New Mexico. The majority of these repeaters are open, meaning any GMRS licensee may use them. Repeaters serving the larger metropolitan areas (Albuquerque, etc) are now closed and are available only to SWCRS members. The two closed New Mexico repeaters are those on Sandia Crest and the East Mountains (Tijeras). To obtain access to these repeaters, one must become a SWCRS club member. To become a member, one must be sponsored by an existing member. That sponsoring member is then held responsible for any misbehavior by the sponsored new member.

Registration with the swcrs.org website is no longer required (as of Feb 2023) to use any of the open repeaters. The CTCSS (PL) sub-audible tones required by these repeaters are listed on the website and are available to the general public. They do, however, insist that users follow certain rules:

1. Licensed GMRS holders only.
2. Spoken language only - no roger beeps, music, whistles, or extraneous noises of any kind.
3. Family friendly language only.
4. Identify at the beginning and end of all conversations, and every 15 minutes.
5. Yield to priority traffic, nets, etc..

When operating on any of the high power channels (15 – 22), it is entirely possible that a repeater in the area may also be utilizing that same channel. In order to avoid interference, it would be good practice to pick a channel not used by a local repeater. Toward that end, the following is a list of the known repeater locations on each channel:

Channel	Locations
15 -	Capilla Peak Pecos
16	Caballo Clovis Farmington Logan
17	Tucumcari
18	Datil Jacks Peak
19	Grants Sedillo Hill
20	Sandia Crest
21	Datil Mesa Rica East Mtn (Tijeras)



East Side of I25 of Hwy 60 to Hwy 380 Trip Report

By Cliff Meier

On March 18, 10 folks in 8 vehicles met at the Love's Truck stop on south side of Berlin for an exploratory run on the east side of I25. In addition to 7 members, we had had 3 potential new members. This run had originally been planned for just east of the mountains but was changed to just on the west side of mountains because the leader had never been in that area. The object was to find a new route from Hwy to Hwy 360 to Hwy 380 and then into San Antonio for green chile cheeseburgers. Both objectives were accomplished! The run went through open plains, canyons and on top of a mesa. We saw some radio towers and a turn into the White Sands Missile Range with a big "No Unauthorized Vehicles" sign.



There were no break downs, either humans or vehicles. We passed several ranches, one of which the road ran right through the middle off. Needless to say these were remote ranches! Saw several herds of local residents. The run ended at the Buckhorn hamburger joint in San Antonio for their one of their famous green chile burgers. On the way home Jeff and several members made a side trip to San Lorenzo Canyon. All in all it was great days with good weather and food!



Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

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<p>Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs trips@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Vacant envdir@nm4w.org</p>	

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, webadmin@nm4w.org

Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org





April 1, 2023

Trail Tales

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www.nm4w.org



Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2023

By Jeanne Meier

The meeting was at North Domingo Multi-Generational Center, 7521 Carmel Ave. NE, Albuquerque 87113, and was hosted by Jeanne Meier.

President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

GUESTS ATTENDING:

James Boggs, Bob Brazell, Ric Henry, Diane Henry, Myron Myers, Neil Turner, Carla Turner

MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Jeff Boggs, Guy Conway, Jack Dickey, Cathy Dickey, Aimee Domines, Christopher Eyrich, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, David Ham, Rebecca Ham, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, Jack Nutter, Scott Potter, Christine Robson, Steve Robson, Andrew Schwebke, Richard Steele, Wayne Sullivan, Jon Trepanier, Frank Whiston, William Zobel

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Jack Dickey.

Jack welcomed the guests and reviewed the points system, explaining it takes 5 points to be eligible for regular membership. The active member with the most points at the end of the year receives a cash award. Jack also indicated there is an associate membership for people living 50 or more miles from Albuquerque but want to participate with the club. This category is non-voting and does not require any points.

Jack indicated that Dan Ross would like to be considered for Associate Member. After discussion his membership was approved.

Scott Potter, Chris Eyrich, and Jeff and Kay Grenier have the required 5 points for membership. A motion was made to approve them for membership and motion passed.

Transgression Fines: Jack explained fines for guests but there were no reported fines.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Cathy Arlowe. Cathy was not present so Jeanne Meier took the minutes.

The meeting minutes from the February 2023 meeting were accepted as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Rich Steele. Rich reported that the checking account had \$6,191.50 and the savings account has \$8,646.48 for a total of \$14,837.98. He also reported that the 2022-2023 budget currently has \$1402.45 remaining.

Last month members had approved the purchase of Liability insurance for \$2,000,000 based on an estimate that Rich had obtained. During actual evaluation two insurance companies have declined to issue a policy due to limitations on what they will cover. Rich will continue to pursue coverage.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Jeff Boggs.

Past Events:

Sat Feb 18, 8:00am Ride: Semi Exploratory East of the Manzano Mts. Cliff Meier reported a good turnout for this run. The east side of the Manzano's was still seasonally closed so they met in Belen and picked up the trail south of Hwy. 60 west of Mountainair along the east side of the Rio Grande Valley against the mountains to Hwy. 380. They ended up at the Buckhorn Burger in San Antonio. There was a variety of terrain.

Sat Mar 4, 9:00am Ride: Exploring the East side of San Mateo Mts, Apache Peak area Jeff Boggs lead a group to explore the area south of Socorro off County Rd 147 west of I25. This is included Apache Kid Peak and a new area with a deep red canyon. The group split in half in the afternoon with one taking a shorter route and the second was an exploratory of the new area that got off trail well after dark.

Future Events: All these rides are on the club website under Calendar section.

Sat Apr 1, 8:30am Ride: NM BDR exploration Jeff Boggs

Thu Apr 13, 6:30pm: Club Meeting April NM4W Meeting_North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center Hostess Shirley Godfrey

Tue Apr 25-Sun Apr 30 Ride: Moab Utah Hard/Difficult Trails - Multi Day Jack Dickey leader

Sun Apr 30-Sat May 6 Ride: Annual Green River, UT Multi Day Ride Cliff Meier coordinator Guy Conway leader

Sat May 13 9:00am Ride: Jemez Mines Run, Cliff Meier

Sat May 20 4:00pm: Club Meeting Jack and Cathy Dickey This is the first summer pot-luck and meeting. See the website for directions or contact Jack or Cathy.

Thu Jun 1-Sun Jun 4 Event: Rock Junction and Rocky Mountain Offroad XPO Rock Junction, 21 Road, Fruita, CO

Sat June 10 4:00pm: NM4W Club Meeting and Picnic Oak Flats Picnic Area, Sandia Ranger District. See the website for more information.

Fri Jun 16-Mon Jun 19 Ride: Weekend Camping Trip in the Northern Jemez

Fri July 8 3:00pm: Club Meeting Ric and Diane Henry This is a summer pot-luck and meeting.

Fri Jul 14-Sun Jul 16 Ride: Overland to Colorado

Sat Jul 22-Fri Jul 28 Event: All-4-Fun 2023 (Mile High Jeep Club) Empire, Colorado

Sat Aug 12 4:30pm August Club Meeting Cliff and Jeanne Meier. This is a summer pot-luck and meeting. See the website for more information or contact Cliff and Jeanne.

Sat Oct 14 Ride: Solar Eclipse Ride

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT – Don Roy. Don Roy was not present but members are encouraged to write articles and rides for our monthly newsletter.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – This position is still vacant. Jack Dickey reported he and Rich Steele were participating in meetings for NM Uplift which is sponsored by New Mexico Economic Development Dept. They are bringing different groups of people together to determine what is needed to outdoor recreation. They have setup working groups of different emphasis that will be looking at the Jemez.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT – Cathy Dickey. Cathy had new shirts available and on display. She has a large selection of sizes. If a member wants the logo on their own clothing they can take it to the local vendor. Contact her for more information. She was selling tickets for the 50-50 raffle.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank Whiston. Frank reminded members to upload pictures to the website.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT - Don Roy. Don Roy was not present .

OLD BUSINESS:

Cliff Meier reminded members that the election is in July and he will not be running for office. Anyone interested in an office should contact him. Jack Dickey has indicated he was considering running for president in the next election but there needs to be a full roster of candidates.

The NM4W Picnic/Meeting will be at the Forest Service Oak Flats Picnic Area in the east mountains on June 10 at 4pm. The club usually provides the meat and drinks and member bring side dishes and desserts. Following a discussion of past costs led to a motion being made to authorize \$375.00 and motion passed.

Summer meetings are pot-lucks held at members homes. The May and August meetings have hosts but volunteers are needed for July and September. Ric Henry volunteered to host the July meeting even though he is not currently a member. September still needs a host.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

Jeanne Meier won \$33.00 from the 50/50 raffle

MEETING ADJOURNED.



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

Another month's gone by which makes it closer to Spring and Summer. Make sure you check the club calendar for upcoming rides and the June club picnic. We have hosts for all the summer meetings/pot lucks except for September. These meetings are held at a member's homes. Let me or Jeff Boggs know if you will host the September one.

Moving the club meeting to the Multi-Generational Center seems to be working out OK but changing the meeting times to 6:30 – 8:00pm is a little inconvenient for some but we had to move the meeting start time to 6:30pm so we can be out of the room by 8. Even though the center itself closes at 8:30pm the center has to clear the room of all the tables and chairs. The guy that does this asked to be out of the room by 8. So far meeting attendance this year has been good.

Let's talk about ride leaders. So far this year most of the rides have been led by Jeff Boggs and several others by Jack Dickey and Jack Nutter. Several of these folks may not be available to lead rides this summer and if so, the number of rides may become limited. If you want to lead a ride but are unclear on where to go or how to get there ask at the meeting or call one of the officers and we will help/pre-run the ride with you. Also in the articles section of the club website is an article on how to lead a ride. The bottom line is no leaders, no rides.

One last thing, Rich has been working hard trying to get liability insurance for the club, see the meeting minutes, he is having difficulties in finding an insurance company who will insure us. If anyone has any contacts in the insurance business let him know.



Vice President's Soap Box

By Jack Dickey

Congratulations to Christopher Eyrich, Jeff Grenier, and Scott Potter for each attaining 5 points and being approved by the membership as Voting Members!

- Christopher drives a 2013 Jeep JKU AEV Rubicon with a 3.5" lift and winch.
- Jeff drives a 1993 Jeep YJ.
- Scott drives a 2010 Toyota Tacoma

All three have been very active, attending numerous meetings and rides. We look forward to seeing each of you for many more meetings and rides.

The membership approved Dan Ross who resides in Magdalena for Associate Memberships during the March meeting. Dan drives a 2018 Chevy Silverado K15 and attended the San Mateo Mountains east side exploratory ride.

There were two applicants who attended their first meeting in March:

- Diane and Ric Henry - Diane and Ric have a 2021 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Rubicon 4XE

- Carla and Neil Turner – Carla and Neil reside in Santa Rosa and wish to become voting members. They have a 2015 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 2-door with a 2.5" lift, 35" BFG KO2 tires, and lots of other good stuff to make getting through the rough stuff easier.

Welcome Dan, Diane, Ric, Carla, and Neil. All of us are glad you found us and look forward to seeing each of you at meetings and/or trail rides. Let me or any member know if you have questions about NM4W and membership.

There were NO transgression fines levied at the March meeting. We all must be behaving! Remember you can turn yourself in or a member may rat-you-out for trail ride or meeting transgressions. It's all in good fun 😊.

Rich Steele and I continue to be active with the Jemez Mountains Dispersed Recreation Management Collaborative. Meetings thus far have focused on building the collaborative including establishing ground rules, goal setting, relationship building and establishing working groups. Rich and I both volunteered for the stewardship working group with me volunteering to be chairperson.

What is stewardship? One definition is careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. In the context of the collaborative, it means helping to manage sustainable dispersed recreation in the western portion of the Jemez Mountains. As an officer of NM4W it is my wish that the club will help with activities such as: trail and camp ambassadorship, clean up days, and trail and camp maintenance and restoration. What does stewardship mean to you? Is it more than picking up litter? Do you practice the principles of Tread Lightly each time you go out and enjoy 4-wheeling?





Apache Kid Peak

By Jeff Boggs

16 4x4's met in Socorro, NM on March 4, 2023. We gassed up and drove south on I-25 to County Road 107 and turned back north. We drove it for a few miles and turned west towards the snow covered peaks for the San Mateo mountains. After airing down, we followed forest roads through the foothills.

Our goal was the drive into East Red Canyon, although on the radio, it sounded like Easter Egg Canyon to Rich Steele. LOL!!

Luckily, we saw a sign with the correct name, so everyone understood the name of our destination. The roads demanded low range, the further we got along.

The big, narrow drop into East Red canyon is quite the view. Once in the bottom, we slowly drove through a beautiful, high walled canyon with many unusual volcanic rock formations.

A few cows were hanging around. Maps show several hiking trails leaving the canyon, all headed up into the Apache Kid Peak area. The supposed grave site of the Apache Kid is high into these mountains. They see very little use.

Once we got to the back of the road, we took a lunch break. Nice weather, for the whole day.

Some folks walked around, while others visited and ate their lunch.



After lunch, we turned around and climbed back out of this really cool canyon, and once on top, we dropped down into another rugged road, that went up and down in and out of 2 canyons.

After a steep climb, we went out to a view of the snow covered peaks. From there, we could look back east and see the Magdalena Mts, across the valley, far off in the distance.

Time to start back. We got to a fork in the road and about half of the group started back to the highway.

7 rigs voted to explore one last forest road, so we turned south and climbed up a very rugged, narrow two track. This took us up to a trail head deep into the mountains and got us a lot closer to the high, snow covered peaks. A trail head to Skeleton Ridge. After a break and some pictures, we drove back down the roads and out to CR 107. Airing up just after dark, we drove back onto I-25 and we all headed for home.

A great place to explore and very many other back country forest roads to check out next time we go to the San Mateo mountains. This is very remote. It will take several more trips down here to see it



all. Canyons, mesas, and great views, wait for those who want to get out there and see this wonderful area of New Mexico. Camping opportunities abound and were discussed by some.

Thanks to all who followed me around all day and I am glad we had a choice for some who were ready to head on home at a descent hour and others who wanted to check out another road and then head home.

Thanks to Jack and Cathy for tail gunning and closing several gates. GMRS radios

worked great on the trail. I am glad the club is going with this communication. Let's go to this area again.



SEMA-Supported REPAIR Act back in U.S. House of Representatives

By SEMA Washington, D.C., Staff

U.S. Representative Neal Dunn (R-FL) introduced [H.R. 906](#), the “Right to Equitable and



Professional Auto Industry Repair (REPAIR) Act,” as the result of the efforts of SEMA, MEMA Aftermarket, the Auto Care Association and the CAR Coalition. The REPAIR Act seeks to protect consumers’ rights to decide where and with what parts they can use to repair and maintain their vehicles. Representatives Brendan Boyle (D-PA-02), Warren Davidson (R-OH-08) and Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA-03) are the current co-sponsors of the bill.

New barriers to working on your own vehicle, independent automotive repair and manufacturing replacement parts are emerging as vehicle technology evolves. While many aftermarket businesses and automotive enthusiasts rely on access to diagnostic data through the OBD-II port, they also need access to telematics data and information that is wirelessly transmitted directly to vehicle manufacturers. The REPAIR Act ensures that vehicle owners and repair businesses have access to this information, which is critical to maintaining a competitive repair market.

Passing the REPAIR Act is a key legislative priority for SEMA in 2023. It is essential to protect our rights to repair and modify vehicles.

Below are key provisions of the REPAIR Act:

- Prohibits manufacturers from imposing technological or legal barriers that block aftermarket **replacement** part manufacturers from accessing critical information and tools necessary to develop interoperable products with emerging vehicle technology.
- Establishes the right for **replacement** part manufacturers and independent repair shops to access critical information, tools and equipment needed to maintain vehicles.
- Requires companies producing vehicles equipped with telematics to make any critical repair information and tools available to replacement part manufacturers and repair facilities at a fair and reasonable cost.
- Provides vehicle owners with data and information wirelessly generated by their vehicles.
- Establishes a right for vehicle owners to securely share their vehicle's repair and maintenance data with their repairer of choice.

The Association is also committed to protecting the right to **modify** vehicles by prohibiting automakers from locking down ECUs and ensuring aftermarket companies have access to the information needed to recalibrate vehicles with Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) after they have been modified. There is more work to be done on behalf of the aftermarket industry—stay tuned for more information on this front.

[Click here](#) to send a letter to your U.S. Representative that asks them to support the REPAIR Act by co-sponsoring the bill.

For more information, contact Eric Snyder at erics@sema.org.

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NM4W Officers

<p>President Cliff Meier pres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Membership Chairman Jack Dickey vpres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Cathy Arlowe sec@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Rich Steele treas@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Cathy Dickey prog@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank Whiston hist@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs trips@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Vacant envdir@nm4w.org</p>	

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, webadmin@nm4w.org

Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org





May 1, 2023

Trail Tales

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers



www.nm4w.org



Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2023

By Cathy Arlowe

The meeting was held at North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center (7521 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113) and was hosted by Shirley Godfrey and Jack Nutter, who provided delectable brownies following the meeting.

President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Jeff announces he will lead a ride at Gordy's Hill on Saturday, April 13, 2023.

GUESTS:

Michael Arndt, Bob Brazell, Rob Fox, John Nolen, Zak Sy, Diego Sy, Neil Turner

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Arlowe, Tracy Bakewell, Jeff Boggs, Guy Conway, Jack Dickey, Cathy Dickey, Christopher Eyrich, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, David Ham, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Diana Kelleher, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, Myron Myers, Jennifer Myers, Jack Nutter, Scott Potter, Lauri Rector, Christine Robson, Steve Robson, Don Roy, Richard Steele, Wayne Sullivan, Jon Trepanier, Frank Whiston, William Zobel

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Jack Dickey.

Welcomes guests and explains the point system and membership.

New Member Applications: Myron Myers and Jennifer Myers are voted in as members without discussion. No other guests were eligible for membership based on the club's point system.

Transgression Fines: Jack Dickey explained fines.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Cathy Arlowe is not present until 7:00 p.m. (thank you to Shirley Godfrey for taking notes in her absence). Meeting minutes from March of 2023 are accepted as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT -Rich Steele. Rich reported that the checking account has \$6118.50, the savings account has \$8,648.68.

There was a discussion about liability insurance for officers of the club. Someone will contact other clubs to ask what they do and who their insurance carrier is.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –Jeff Boggs.

Past Events:

Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.; NM Backroads exploratory ride led by Jeff Boggs.

Upcoming Events: (Details for all upcoming events can be found on the website.)

Friday, April 14, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.; CNM Automotive Technology - SkillsUSA State competition, CNM main campus Ted Chavez Hall. Rich and Cliff volunteered to help out

Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.; Gordy's Hill 2023 Led by Jeff Boggs

Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.; Jemez Recreation Collaborative Earth Day clean up event. Rich and Jack Dickie.

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 to Sunday, April 30, 2023; Moab Utah Hard/Difficult Trails - Multi Day Trip. Jeff Dickey to lead difficult rides.

Sunday, April 30, 2023 to Saturday, May 6, 2023; Annual Green River, UT Multi Day Ride. Cliff Meyer to lead rides.

Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.; Jemez Mines ride. Cliff Meyer to lead.

Saturday, May 20, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.; May Monthly Meeting at Jack and Cathy Dicky's House (potluck, bring chairs), 30 Marquez Road, Los Lunas.

Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.; June Monthly Meeting and Club picnic at Oak Flats Picnic Area Sandia Ranger. Cathy Arlowe to host potluck.

Friday, June 16, 2023 to Monday, June 19, 2023; Weekend Camping Trip in the Northern Jemez. Jeff Boggs to lead.

Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.; July Monthly Meeting at Ric Henry's house, 9701 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122.

Friday, July 14, 2023 to Sunday, July 16, 2023; Overland to Colorado led by Jack Dicky.

Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.; August Monthly Club Meeting hosted by Cliff and Jeanne Meyer, 5105 Fairmont Ct NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120.

We need a host and a date for the September Monthly Club Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 to Saturday, October 14, 2023; Chile Challenge, Riverside Campground, Caballio Lake State Park.

Saturday, October 14, 2023; Solar Eclipse Ride, Ticaboo, Ut. Leader needed.

Club Meetings in May through September are potluck.

Please sign up for the rides you want to go on the website or send the trip leader an email that way you will be appraised of any changes to the trip. DO NOT JUST SHOW UP.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – This position is still vacant.

Jack Dickey gives a reports on the Jemez Mountains Dispersed Recreation Management Collaborative. Rich and Jack will be involved in the Stewardship Working Group. Jack Dickey reminds us that we are about doing the right thing, giving back, treading lightly, and taking care of the places we love to ride.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT – Cathy Dickey. Cathy describes the merchandise for sale, explained the 50/50 raffle. Cathy paid the club (to Rich) \$250 from merch sales and the 50/50 raffle. Cathy also explained that members can get the club logo on any garment if they go to ASI Custom Apparel, Banners and Embroidery, 6808 Academy Parkway East, NE; Suite C3, phone is 505-508-0783.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank Whiston. Frank reports there are over 16,000 photos on the website and encourages members to continue to upload photos and videos. He also has some old photo albums that he will share at the next couple of meetings.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT - Don Roy. Don has nothing to report.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT – Don Roy. Don has nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cliff once again encourages everyone to lead a ride.

Officer elections will be in July. Cliff encourages all to volunteer. Particularly, we are looking for a secretary for next year. While Cathy did a great job, she is unable to continue as secretary next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jeff Grenier mentioned that the Marine Corp League is celebrating, and the ball tickets will be going on sale soon if anyone is interested.

Jack Dickey reminds us that there are opportunities for service projects on public lands if we can come up with any ideas that would be great. For example, Cliff reminds us that we put up a sign at Gordy's years ago. Also, please pick up trash when we are out on rides.

David Ham makes a presentation about instant soap and water and the GMRS repeater on the top of Sandia. If you go to GMRSNM.com you can request permission to use the repeater. Did a demonstration.

Cliff and Jeff agree that using GMRS is a success on trial rides.

Christina Robson won \$27.50 in the 50/50 raffle.

Jeff Boggs reminds us to support our local 4-wheel shops. Members may still be able to get 10% discount at Desert Rat.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:44 p.m.


	President's Report
	By Cliff Meier

The President was breaking in a new Jeep at an off-road event, so no report.

	Vice President's Soap Box
	By Jack Dickey

The Vice-President was also at a multiday event, is leading it actually, so no VP report this month.

	Director of Environmental Affairs
	This officer position is currently open, contact any officer to volunteer.

	Gordy's Hill Ride
	By Jeff Boggs – Apr 15, 2023

14 4x4's met at the Truck Stop, Lemitar, NM. We aired down there and drove over to the Quebradas Backcountry road. Turning south off of it, we dropped into a big canyon. Then we climbed out on a steep two track road and this took us down into another canyon with a few tricky rocks to navigate.

Another two track took us down to the Barite mines and a Box canyon. Very interesting country to see , with views of Socorro, NM to the west.

Back at the mines, we had a nice lunch. We explored another dirt road and canyon before back tracking to Upper Amando canyon.

This was a moderate level trail that presented some challenges for our group, but everyone made it through. some spotting was required.

We finished the day following a dirt road around the northeast area of Gordy's Hill. We dropped into a big canyon and worked our way back to Gordy's Hill and aired up there.



A great day and weather was great. Did not see many other folks on the route we took. Many more routes to do down there.



Cedro Peak...Again...

By Don Roy – Apr 29, 2023

Cedro Peak is nice and close for me, exactly a 10 mile ride from my house to the Ranger Station meet point. It's my go-to place for testing my Jeep after doing some work. This time the reason was to test my driveline after a teardown to replace the clutch and transmission.



A second test was Cliff with his 'new' TJ Rubicon. He wanted to get an off-road feel for it before heading to Utah the next day for a week long stay.

We had 7 vehicles in total and 12 people, a nice group for a last minute outing. Two of the vehicles had new people that had never been on a NM4W ride before. There is not really much to report that we haven't

covered for Cedro already. It was nice and dry on FR462, FR13, and FR542, with perfect weather, a sweatshirt in the morning and a t-shirt by 11am.

Both Cliff and were pleased with the testing aspect, both going home with a few mechanical chores to work through. All in all, a perfect ride.

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NM4W Officers

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<p>Treasurer Rich Steele treas@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Cathy Dickey prog@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank Whiston hist@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs trips@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Vacant envdir@nm4w.org</p>	

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, webadmin@nm4w.org
 Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



June 1, 2023

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Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2023

By Cathy Arlowe

The meeting was held at the home of Jack and Cathy Dickey in Tome/Adelino (30 Marquez Road, Los Lunas) and was a potluck hosted by Jack and Cathy Dickey.

President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

GUESTS:

Glenn Boudreaux, Ric Henry, Diane Henry, Neil Turner, Carla Turner

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Arlowe, Jeff Boggs, Jack Dickey, Cathy Dickey, Aimee Domines, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Cliff Meier, Myron Myers, Jennifer Myers, Jack Nutter, Scott Potter, Lauri Rector, Christine Robson, Steve Robson, NaDeen Roland, Don Roy, Andrew Schwebke, Chris Sears, Richard Steele, Beth P. Steele, Wayne Sullivan

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Jack Dickey.

Welcomes guests and explains the point system and membership.

Guests introduce themselves.

Rich Steel further explains points and directs guests to the website.

Transgression Fines: Jack Dickey explained fines. Jack Nutter is fined for "initiating a recovery." Ed confesses transgressions but is not fined. Stories are told and all have a good laugh.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Cathy Arlowe

Meeting minutes from April of 2023 are accepted as published without discussion.

TREASURER'S REPORT -Rich Steele.

Rich reported that the checking account has \$6424.75.50, the savings account has \$8,650.81.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –Jeff Boggs.

Jeff reminds folks to look at the calendar for trips and last-minute changes.

Past Events:

Cliff and Rich report on Friday, April 14, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.; CNM Automotive Technology - SkillsUSA State competition, CNM main campus Ted Chavez Hall.

Jeff Boggs reports on Saturday, April 15, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.; Gordy's Hill 2023

Rich and Jack Dickey report on Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.; Jemez Recreation Collaborative Earth Day clean up event – cancelled and rescheduled.

Jack Dickey reports on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 to Sunday, April 30, 2023; Moab Utah Hard/Difficult Trails - Multi Day Trip.

Don Roy reports on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.; Cedro Peak. Repairs worked.

Cliff Meyer reports on Sunday, April 30, 2023 to Saturday, May 6, 2023; Annual Green River, UT Multi Day Ride.

Cliff Meyer reports on Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.; Jemez Mines ride. Had to do an alternate route because of road closures.

Upcoming Events: (Details for all upcoming events can be found on the website.)

Saturday, May 27, 2023; Lori invites all to Sandia Motor Cross.

Thursday, June 1, 2023 to June 4, 2023; Rock Junction and Rocky Mountain Offroad Expo Rock Junction, 21 Road, Fruita, CO. Jack and Cathy Dickey to attend.

Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.; The Jemez Mountains Dispersed Recreation Collaboration cleanup day (rescheduled), meet at 51 Woodsy Lane Jemez Springs, NM.

Saturday, June 10, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.; June Monthly Meeting and Club picnic at Oak Flats Picnic Area Sandia Ranger. Cathy Arlowe to host potluck.

Friday, June 16, 2023 to Monday, June 19, 2023; Weekend Camping Trip in the Northern Jemez. Jeff Boggs to lead.

Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.; July Monthly Meeting at Ric Henry's house, 9701 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122.

Friday, July 14, 2023 to Sunday, July 16, 2023; Overland to Colorado led by Jack Dicky.

Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.; August Monthly Club Meeting hosted by Cliff and Jeanne Meyer, 5105 Fairmont Ct NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120.

Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.; September Club Meeting 4:00 p.m. hosted by Frank Whiston.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 to Saturday, October 14, 2023; Chile Challenge, Riverside Campground, Caballio Lake State Park.

Saturday, October 14, 2023; Solar Eclipse Ride, Ticaboo, UT. Leader needed.

Club Meetings in May through September are potluck.

Everyone is encouraged to lead a ride in June and July. If interested, please contact Cliff Meyer or Jeff Boggs.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – This position is still vacant.

Jack Dickey gives reports on the Jemez Mountains Dispersed Recreation Management Collaborative and the upcoming clean up day.

Open to ideas about giving back. Frank posted about a grant from Tread Lightly. If anyone has ideas about how we can give back so we can continue to enjoy off roading let Jack, Rich, or Frank know.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT – Cathy Dickey. Cathy describes the merchandise for sale and explained the 50/50 raffle. The “store” is open after the meeting.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank Whiston (absent).

WEBMASTER'S REPORT - Don Roy. Don has nothing new to report.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT – Don Roy. Don has nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Meeting attendance was good this month. If anyone has ideas to improve attendance, speak up.

There was extensive discussion about liability insurance for officers of the club. Club passed a motion to invite an insurance expert to the next meeting to answer questions by the club. Thank you, Ric, for help procure an expert and progressing the discussion.

Officer elections will be in July. Cliff encourages all to volunteer. Jack Dickey has volunteered as president. Rich has volunteered to stay on as Treasurer. If interested in other officer positions, let Cliff know. Folks can review club Articles and SOPs on the website. There are also lots of information on the website, including the newsletter.

There is a pole on the website to vote for 4Wheeler of the Year. All are encouraged to go vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business this meeting

Andrew Schwebke won \$30.00 in the 50/50 raffle.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:26 p.m.



President's Report

By Cliff Meier

The end of our current fiscal year is rapidly approaching, the end of July. Several things happen in June and July. Firstly, in June we vote for the NM4W person of the year. All members may vote for the person of their choice by going to the club website. A pop up box will appear and there you can select who you believe has contributed to the club this year, as of the meeting last week only 7 members had voted.

Secondly, the July meeting is when we will vote for next year's club officers. Any regular club member can run for an office; president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, historian, trail coordinator, and program chairman. These are all important positions and I encourage you run for one. If you are interested e-mail me, sarmeier@yahoo.com. Lastly, don't forget the picnic on Jun 10 at the Oak Flat Locust Site group picnic area. There are details on the club website calendar.

As we do every month, I highly encourage club members to volunteer to lead rides. It's not hard and there is an article on the club website on how to do it. If you want to lead a run but aren't sure on where to go or aren't sure the route, contact me at sarmeier@yahoo.com and if I am available will go with you to pre-run it.

Finally, I want to wish everyone a great summer, see you all at our meeting and runs!



Vice President's Soap Box

By Jack Dickey

I apologize for not having a vice presidents report for last month's newsletter. Having just returned from the club's Moab trip, I didn't get it pulled together.

Congratulations to Myron Myers for attaining 5 points and being approved by the membership as a Voting Members! Myron drives a 2005 Jeep Rubicon with a 3½ lift 33" tires and other fortifications to improve his jeep's capabilities. Myron has been very active, attending numerous meetings and rides. We look forward to seeing him for many more meetings and rides.

Rob Fox attended his first meeting in April. Rob has a nicely built 1988 Ford Ranger. Glenn Boudreaux attended his first meeting in May. Glen has a stock 2012 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 2-door with BFG Mud Terrain 33-inch tires. All of us are glad you both found us and look forward to seeing you of you at meetings and/or trail rides. Let me or any member know if you have questions about NM4W and membership.

There were NO transgression fines levied at the March or April meetings. We all must have been behaving! At the May meeting Jack Nutter paid a fine for momentary lapse of situational awareness when he flopped his Jeep on the Moab trip. Remember, you can turn yourself in or a member may rat-you-out for trail ride or meeting transgressions. It's all in good fun 😊.

Since the April meeting, Rich Steele and I attended two meetings of the Jemez Mountains Dispersed Recreation Management Collaborative – Stewardship/Education Working Group. There was a clean-up day planned for the end of April, but it had to be postponed due to high spring runoff, muddy roads, and lots of snow remaining. The clean-up day has been rescheduled for June 3. The working group is gathering ideas for projects and looking at what grants might be available.

Folks from TreadLightly! saw the clean-up day posted on Instagram and contacted Frank Whiston. They would like to fund a project as part of the Quadratic 50 in 50 program. Ideas include constructing an information kiosk and doing another clean-up day. We have contacted staff at Jemez and Cuba Ranger Districts and Socorro BLM (Gordy's Hill) inquiring to see if a kiosk is possible or if they have another project that benefits off-road motorized recreation that could be done this calendar year. At the least a clean-up will be conducted at the Quebradas Backcountry Byway staging/parking area. Watch the club calendar for date and time. Opportunities like this are what stewardship is all about!

Happy Trails!



On May 6, I posted an announcement for the [June 3 Jemez clean-up](#) on the @nm4worg Instagram page in effort to reach more folks about the event with hopes of boosting attendance beyond our regular membership. Just a few days later, we received the following unexpected message: “Hi. I’m the Assistant Director at TreadLightly! and we are working with Quadratic to complete a motorized trail conservation project in every state. I saw your post about the project you have coming up in the Jemez and was wondering if you might be interested in partnering with TreadLightly!...”

Danielle was referring to [Quadratic's 50 for 50 Stewardship Programs](#) presented by [TreadLightly!](#) This new campaign's goal is to complete one stewardship project in each state that enhances or improves off-road or public land's access.

Tread Lightly! and Quadratic recognizes that one of the best ways to promote responsible outdoor recreation is to support enthusiasts in the stewardship of their favorite areas. With the help of




licensing agreements from some of TreadLightly!'s top partners, the TreadLightly! grants are designed to help individuals and groups organize clean-ups, trail maintenance work days and other small stewardship projects. They have already completed projects in all our neighboring 4-corners states and Danielle reached out to NM4W in efforts to assist with that goal in New Mexico.

With my experience with TreadLightly! in receiving a grant for our Cedro Peak Earth Day

Stewardship Project in 2016, I responded to Danielle's message on the club's behalf with an emphatic YES! Then I reached out to Jack Dickey and Rich Steele for help with coming up with a game plan given that they have fresh contacts within the Jemez Collaborative. I had several ideas in mind, that would have a more lasting impact than just a clean-up. My first, and most preferred idea was to suggest to the Socorro BLM office that we install an information kiosk at the parking area along the Quebadras Backcountry Byway. Other ideas included installing buck-and-pole fencing to keep travel off a sensitive area somewhere, or a clean up event. Jack and I reached out to our contacts with little response.

On May 24, Jack, Rich, and I had a Google meet scheduled with Danielle Fowles-McNiven, Evan Robins, and Matt Caldwell. Just hours before, Jack heard from the Socorro BLM indicating that a kiosk was a possibility. So, when the three of us met with the TreadLightly! team, we were able to pitch this idea. Everyone was excited to make this happen. Evan showed us an example like the photo above as some recent work that they had done in Arizona at the BLM Table Mesa area. The next day, Jack got in contact with Denny Apachito at Socorro BLM Field Office who is the lead on EA for Johnson (Gordy's) Hill Transportation & Recreation Management Plan. **He said yes to a kiosk!** Be on the lookout for more details on this project and for how you can get involved as we hammer out some of the details.

	<h2>Annual Green River Trip</h2> <h3>April 30 – May 6, 2023</h3>
<p>By Cliff Meier</p>	

On Apr 30 – May 6, 14 hardy folks in 9 vehicles met in Green River, UT for the club's annual Green River multi day event. We had 1 Guest at the beginning and picked up 2 later in the week. We also had 2 past members join us. Guy Conway led runs for 4 days and I led 1 run the middle of the week. We started the week off with a run through Black Dragon canyon to see the Black Dragon Petroglyph. The second day we ran the Marie Conover trail down into the south Coal Wash and ended up in Ferron, UT for ice cream. On Wednesday ai led a run on the Red Canyon loop which has fantastic views of the canyons in the San Rafael Swell area, have to see to believe! We continued on to the Luck Strike mine where there are some builds still remaining. On Thursday the group followed Guy under I-70 bridge, last part of I-70 to be completed, by way of Swayze's cabin. The last day we went looking for wild burros and more petroglyphs. All in all we all had a great time with no problems. For pictures from this event go the club's photo Gallery.



Moab, Utah – Hard/Difficult Trails April 25-30, 2023

By Jack Dickey

This trip was the first time to Moab for Rich Steele, Jack Nutter/Shirley Godfrey, and Drew Schwebke/Aimee Domines. Jack and Cathy Dickey had been to Moab multiple times, both mountain biking and rock crawling with their Blazer and buggy. Iffy Kahn had been to Moab area, but not on harder trails. Wille Crawly had been on Moab harder trails, but many years ago.

Trail Day One

The morning's weather was bright and sunny after a cool night in the 40s. Daytime temperatures were predicted to be in the low 70s. The group met at the Sun Outdoor Arches Gateway at 9:00 for a brief meeting and headed north on Highway 191 for our first day's trail: Sevenmile Rim. The caravan of six rigs pulled off the highway at Cotter Mine Road and aired-down in a large gravel parking area. Jack D. unloaded his buggy from its trailer and left the trailer and pick-up for returning to the campground later in the day. The others drove their rigs from the campground.

There were a few first day rig issues that arose: Rich Steele's jeep was puking gear oil from the front differential vent. What a stinky, oily mess. But, not really a concern for driving on the trail. At highway speeds, the automatic transmission in Drew Schwebke's jeep was overheating. He continued on thinking that slower speeds (four-low) would keep transmission temperature down.

We headed northwest on Cotter Mine Road, passing old uranium mine workings, and up some switchbacks before turning southwest on the trail itself. We began climb up the trails and shortly we came to a play area with several ledges where folks could experience Moab slickrock and practice their "Moab bump". We continued climbing up to the rim crest where we were met with outstanding view to the east. The La Sal Mountains were still packed with snow and mostly white from snows the past few days.

We dopped off the rim and traveled down to Uranium Arch. It's always a wonder to see such a geologic feature and to contemplate the natural forces shaping the rock over the millennia. The group continued southwest over slickrock ledges, ridges, and gullies, crossing "Silver Crack". Soon we were crossing a sandy area on a straight two track. Those whose rig's suspension could absorb the whoops enjoyed a high-speed run to the flat sandstone area between Monitor and Merrimack Buttes; our lunch spot.

Heading west after lunch we soon came to the tight squeeze between two vertical sandstone slabs: Burnt Toast. There were a few steep slickrock climbs and descents and the off-camber traverse known as "Eileen". We pulled up to the next obstacle – Wipeout Hill. Imagine seeing a couple of 4-door Jeep Rubicons with federal g-plates at the top of the hill. We visited with the drivers and found out they were Park Service employees doing driver training! There was an experienced spotter who guided both drivers down and back up the steep slickrock.

Jack D., Rich, Drew, Jack N., and Wille all successfully took on Wipe Out Hill. Jack D. took the optional ledgy line instead retracing the way down. We were ready to head over to Tusher Tunnel, but our route was blocked by a cowgirl and cowboys herding about 50 head of cattle. A short time later we were moving again. Dropping down a few ledges, negotiating twisty-turny sand washes, and traversing sandy two-track we arrived at Tusher Tunnel. This natural tunnel, about 100 yards long, is the result of wind and water (frost) hollowing out a crack creating a triangular passage. The tunnel opens to an amazing bowl surrounded by sandstone cliffs.

Unfortunately, with higher speeds in sand washes and two-track the transmission on Drew's rig overheated again. While at Tusher Tunnel, he discovered that the alternator was not charging the batteries. Soon, the electric radiator fan stopped working. Luckily, the route back to the highway was over improved gravel roads. Rich hooked up a tow rope and began pulling Drew's rig. Willie ran ahead with Drew's pick-up keys and returned to the parking area with Drew's truck and trailer to haul the dead rig back to camp. Everyone made it back to camp before sundown.



Even including rig issues, the first day was a great with drivers warming up for harder trails to come. What a treat for folks new to Moab!

Trail Day Two

After a somewhat restful night (noise from truck traffic on Highway 191 was intrusive) we were greeted with a clear warmer morning. The previous evening, the group decided to run the "Trifecta" – Poison Spider, Golden Spike, Gold Bar Rim. Iffy had to return home so today's crew included Jack and Cathy, Rich, Drew/Aimee, Jack N., and Willie. Unable to quickly find an alternator and deal with the transmission overheat problem, Drew and Aimee were driving their Jeep Gladiator which they used to tow their camping trailer. Anticipating a longer day, the group met at 8:30 and drove north on 191 to Potash Road. There were several rock climbers already on the cliffs adjoining the road.

Our group was the first at the trail head. But while airing down, a group of guided rental jeeps got ahead of us. We soon passed them at the first set of ledges. Drew's lifted Jeep Gladiator with 37" tires and factory lockers made easy work of the ledges; although the receiver hitch dug along the rock below taller ledges. Poison Spider never fails to provide great wheeling with slickrock waterfall climbs, challenging ledges, the V-notch, and fast gravel and sand two track crossing Poison Spider Mesa.

Knowing it was going to be a long trail day, we bypassed Little Arch at the top of Poison Spider and turned onto Golden Spike. The crew enjoyed the steep climbs and descents of Skyline Summit and the Launching Pad. Continuing on Golden Spike we passed through a narrow ravine that had trees, brush, running water and some large ledges to climb. It's truly amazing to pass through a riparian area high in the sandstone desert!

Just before reaching our lunch spot at the first view point along Gold Bar Rim, Jack N.'s jeep decided to take a nap! After crossing a ridge with some ledges, Jack N. paused for Drew and Willie to catch up. Not remembering that there was a transverse ledge in from of his jeep, Jack N. moved forward, flopped his jeep down off the ledge onto the driver's side, and landed the front on



the passenger rear of Rich's Jeep. Everyone in the group and a few other folks on the trail quickly sprang into action to be sure Jack was ok, upright his Jeep, and clean-up broken glass, debris, and spilled fluids. Other than being frustrated by acute CRS (Can't Remember S#!+), Jack was gratefully fine, at least until he would tell Shirley, back at camp, why the hard top was broken. With a pull sideways from Drew's winch and a tug forward by Rich's Jeep his Jeep was upright. Carnage included: broken KC light, crumpled fender flare, shattered driver rear window, and fractured fiberglass top. Mostly, the Jeep seemed ok. Now was an opportune time for lunch.

After eating and reassessing Jack N.'s condition it was time to see if His Jeep would start and run. Fearing that oil had entered the cylinders, Jack N. carefully bumped the starter. Yeah! the motor did not appear to be hydrolocked. Jack bumped the starter a few more times then, with fingers crossed, let the motor fire up. With a brief puff of smoke, His Jeep was running fine. The club sheriff (Jack D.) levied a \$1 fine against Jack N. for momentary lapse of situational awareness.

With our wits gathered, we continued our journey along Gold Bar Rim, relishing breathtaking views in every direction and fantastic wheeling. The trail dropped off the rim and we soon arrived at Golden Crack. While assuring careful wheel placement, everyone got to test flexibility of their rig's suspension. After floating a few wheels, suspension creaks and groans, tippy seconds, and dragging a few bumpers, everyone traversed the crack. The receiver hitch on Drew's Gladiator left a little metal on the rock.



Judging by everyone's grin, all were reveling in Moab wheeling. We dropped down Golden Staircase and made it through Body Snatcher without incident. Reflecting on the sleepiness of Jack N.'s Jeep, the band bypassed Double Whammy. The trail continued to lose elevation along the west side of Gold Bar Canyon. The views into the canyon are astounding, making it hard to concentration on many ledges and turns along the trail.



Before long we arrived at The Waterfall, a very steep slickrock ledge with a short off-camber traverse at the top. Jack D. tested the grip of his buggy's sticky tires on the steeper lefthand line by trying to crawl it. There was no crawling this line. So, Jack D. backed off, repositioned the front tires, and opened up the throttle of the 347 stroker. With loud authority of plentiful horsepower and bark of tires on slickrock, the buggy sprang to the top. Up next was Rich on the less steep righthand line. Placing his rig's front tires on the ledge, Rich gave it a tentative "Moab Bump" only to be denied cresting the climb. Repositioning, Rich executed a perfect bump to reach the top then carefully negotiated the off-camber traverse. Drew did much the same with his Gladiator. Jack N. tried a couple of times, but his rig's shorter wheel base kept wanting to pitch the frontend over sideways. Using discretion (instead of testosterone), we hooked his winch to an anchor and after an easy pull, his rig was at the top. It took Willie a couple of tries to get up, but to increase the challenge, he didn't use either front or rear locker!



With a sense of satisfaction that only endorphins can bring on, the troop climbed into our rigs and continued down Gold Bar Rim trail. After a few more ledges we arrived at Gemini Bridges Road and traveled the 2nd road to the parking area at Highway 191, crossing Goony Bird Rock's toes along the way, for good luck. Drew and Aimee stayed with Cathy and buggy while Rich gave Jack D. a ride back to his truck and trailer. Jack retrieved his wife and buggy and everyone made it back to camp just before sundown.

With a second day of wheeling done, everyone was getting into the groove that is Moab! Jack N. and Shirley visited with folks during the evening. Jack was no worse for the wear, but Shirley had the look of "what did you let my husband do..." Little did we know what mother nature had planned for us in the early morning hours to come.

Trail Day Three

Around 1:30 in the morning Mother Nature unleashed a gale force wind that laid-over Jack and Cathy's tent not once but twice. To add to the calamity, strong winds blew dirt, not just dust, into their tent. The rainfly on Drew and Aimee's tent camper departed but luckily didn't go far. Jack N. sent a text offering overnight shelter if needed, but luckily, no one needed to take him up on the offer. Rich emerged from his tent bright-eyed and bushy-tailed wondering why Jack and Cathy looked so knackered. He had slept through the tempest as his tent was rock solid, plus he used earplugs because of heavy truck noise.

The crew had decided to run Cliffhanger. Although sleep deprived, Jack D. was absolutely willing to lead the trail run. Drew and Aimee decided to go off on their own as their Gladiator would have suffered on this trail. Jack N. stayed in town to get his jeep top better repaired other than the trail fix. Leaving camp at 9:00, Jack and Cathy, Rich, and Willie travel west out of town on Kane Creek Road to the trailhead. The trailhead parking area is surrounded by vertical cliff walls which afforded a shady cool start for the trail run.

Cliff Hanger is an out and back trail and the beginning/end is perhaps the most difficult part. Immediately drivers are challenged with staircase and boulder ledges on both sides of Kane Creek crossing. Over the years vehicles, especially side-by-sides, have dugout the bases of ledges, especially at the creek crossing making climbs more demanding. Again, we were first ones on the trail or so we thought. Dropping down the stairsteps and turning to drop to the creek crossing; we were surprised to see three side-by-sides at the next ledge, one of which was disabled with a broken ball joint that occurred the evening before. Luckily, the drivers were in the midst of repairs. After a short while they were moving and cleared the trail. We easily negotiated the ledge on the other side of the creek. There were numerous mountain bikers and we were passed by a large group of motorcycles at the Z-Turn obstacle. It was entertaining to watch motorcycle riders traverse the series of ledges. One rider went flying over the handlebars when the front wheel stuffed in a hole. Fortunately, he quickly got up, shook it off, and pushed his motorcycle through. Having seen the others flail, only the last couple were able to ride the obstacle without getting off to push their motorcycles.

We expertly climbed numerous ledges and dropped down Cliffhanger obstacle with ease. Before long, we arrived at the top overlooking the Colorado River and enjoyed lunch with marvelous views in all directions. Returning by way we came, we encountered multiple mountain bikers, a few side-by-sides, and a group of eight old style Bronco based buggies. All of which were sporting healthy sounding engines. We without difficulty climbed Cliffhanger obstacle and with gravity on our side descended ledge after ledge until we reached the creek crossing. The first ledge had to be traversed carefully as it was an off-camber drop. The second ledge took a couple of tries to find the correct line and enough traction to climb up.

At the bottom of the stairsteps, there is a large rounded ledge on the right and an easier ledge climb on the left. Like the day before, Jack D. tried to first crawl the rounded ledge, but there was not enough traction even for sticky tires. So, with ample horse power and copious wheel speed, Jack launched his buggy up over and steadily climbed up the steepest stairsteps to trail's end. Rich and Willie took the easier left side, and readily climb up the same stairstep line as Jack. Throughout the day, Willie schooled us on how to rock crawl while minimally using lockers!

The crew got back to camp a little earlier, grabbed showers, and enjoyed our dinners; each of us basking in satisfaction of a fantastic day of Moab rock crawling.

Trail Day Four

Three days of extraordinary wheeling and one sleepless night had taken its toll. Jack D. proposed doing an “easy” version of Metal Masher. The idea was to bypass Rock Chucker and Widow Maker obstacles. Hopefully we would be back earlier in order to start packing to return home. Also, it was Cathy’s turn to drive their buggy!

Jack and Cathy, Rich, and Drew and Aimee met at 9:00. But where was Willie?. We found him at his camp under his rig. The starter had left the party, so he was not going to make the trail. Jack N. and Shirley were off to explore forest roads in the La Sal Mountains.

The remaining crew headed north on Highway 191 to Gemini Bridges Road parking area to air down. Crossing railroad tracks and going south along the powerline road, there was free public parking, instead of paying \$5 to park on



private land next to the highway. After unloading the buggy and airing down we headed out along Gemini Bridges Road, crossing over Gooney Bird Rock’s toes for good luck. Passing the turnoff for Gold Bar Rim trail and climbing the steep hill, we soon turned right onto a two-track road and headed for Metal Masher trail. There were many folks camped along the road and two track.

Cathy took over driving and before long we were crossing ledges and slickrock fins. There were other groups on the trail, but not too many folks to slow down our ride. Continuing to climb, we took on Tail Pipe Hill and Mirror Gulch obstacles with little difficulty. Cathy tried one of the harder initial ledges of Misty’s Thumb, but was not comfortable with the committed bump needed. So, Jack took over and with a classic Moab bump got their buggy up the ledge and continued to the top of the ledges. Rich was next, but after a couple of tries couldn’t quite get the bump right. So, he backed off and took one of the easier lines. Drew’s Gladiator dug its hitch and couldn’t quite find enough traction so he also took the easier line.

Jack returned to the ledges to spot a tag-along-driver, if needed. He was reminded that not everyone drives with the same finesse as our crew. The driver launched his well-built 4-door Rubicon with a full throttle send – bouncing over ledges and off boulders causing Jack to jump out of the way! Once everyone was through the ledges, climbing up to Eagles Perch Lookout, we stopped for lunch. A benefit of Moab wheeling is that is not hard to schedule lunch at a place with astounding views.

After enjoying each other’s good company, we fired up our willing rigs and heading along Arth’s Rim. Before long the trail mellowed and we found ourselves at the crossroads going to Widow Maker or out to Gemini Bridges Road. With our wheeling desire fulfilled, it was a bittersweet drive out to Gemini Bridges Road and back to camp. Even with Jack N.’s flop and various mechanical issues, everyone agreed that the trip was a resounding success!



La Ventana Mesa Ride May 13, 2023

By Cliff Meier

On May 13 had a run on La Ventana Mesa with 16 folks in 13 vehicles. We had 2 guests and 4 prospective members join us. We met at in San Ysidro at 9:am. La Ventana Mesa is about 10 miles south of Cuba off Hwy 550. Originally the run was planned for the mines just east of Cuba off FR 126 but the road to mines was damaged during the winter and was not suitable for stock vehicles.



Many of the other roads in the area were still closed or blocked by trees so the run was changed to the mesa. The mesa run is a loop that had great scenery and had very little winter damage. The club had doing it for several years but had stopped running it couple of years ago. It was good to get back to it. It has an interesting decent off the mesa into a very pretty canyon where we then continued back to the air down spot. Go to the Gallery for more pictures.



Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

NM4W Officers

President Cliff Meier pres@nm4w.org	Vice-President Membership Chairman Jack Dickey vpres@nm4w.org	Secretary Cathy Arlowe sec@nm4w.org
Treasurer Rich Steele treas@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Cathy Dickey prog@nm4w.org	Historian Frank Whiston hist@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs trips@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Vacant envdir@nm4w.org	

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, webadmin@nm4w.org
 Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org





July 1, 2023

Trail Tales

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers



www.nm4w.org



Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2023

By Cathy Arlowe

The meeting was held at Oak Flats picnic area in Tijeras, New Mexico.

President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m.

GUESTS:

Kenneth Shiau

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Arlowe, Tracy Bakewell, Cheryle Bakewell, Jack Dickey, Cathy Dickey, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, Bob Norton, Jack Nutter, Don Owen, Karen Owen, Jorge Pacho, Scott Potter, Lauri Rector, Christine Robson, Steve Robson, NaDeen Roland, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Richard Steele, Beth P. Steele, Wayne Sullivan, Frank Whiston, Beth Whiston

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Jack Dickey.

Welcomes guest Kenneth Shiau and explains the point system and membership.
Kenneth introduces himself.

Associate member Drew Condon is voted in without discussion.

Timothy Mars and Bill and Carla Turner are voted in as full members without discussion. New members will begin paying dues in the new fiscal year beginning in July of 2023.

Transgression Fines: No transgression fines were assessed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Cathy Arlowe

Meeting minutes from May of 2023 are accepted as published with one correction – Cliff Meier's name was misspelled in the May minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT -Rich Steele.

Rich reports that as of June 10, 2023, the checking account has \$6424.75, the savings account has \$8,653.01.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –Jeff Boggs was not present. Cliff Meier presents the trip report.

Past Events:

Rich and Jack Dickey report on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.; Jemez Recreation Collaborative Earth Day clean up event went well. The club members completed clean up in their designated area.

Lauri Rector reports on Saturday, May 27, 2023 Sandia Motor Cross.

Upcoming Events: (Details for all upcoming events can be found on the website.)

Friday, June 16, 2023 to Monday, June 19, 2023;Weekend Camping Trip in the Northern Jemez, led by Jeff Boggs.

Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Jemez South End Run, led by Cliff Meier.

Saturday, July 8, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.; July Monthly Meeting at Ric Henry's house, 9701 Carmel Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122.

Friday, July 14, 2023 to Sunday, July 16, 2023; Overland to Colorado, led by Jack Dicky.

Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.; August Monthly Club Meeting hosted by Cliff and Jeanne Meier, 5105 Fairmont Ct NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120.

Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.; September Club Meeting 4:00 p.m. hosted by Frank Whiston.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 to Saturday, October 14, 2023; Chile Challenge, Riverside Campground, Caballio Lake State Park.

Saturday, October 14, 2023; Solar Eclipse Ride, Ticaboo, Ut. Leader needed. Information on the website.

Club Meetings in May through September are potluck.

Everyone is encouraged to lead a ride in June and July. If interested, please contact Cliff Meier or Jeff Boggs.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – This position is still vacant. No report.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT – Jack Dickey gave the report on Cathy Dickey's behalf. There is merchandise for sale and there will be a 50/50 raffle during the picnic.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank Whiston. Nothing to report

WEBMASTER'S REPORT - Don Roy. Don has nothing new to report.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT – Don Roy. Don has nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Officer elections will be at the July meeting. Cliff encourages all to volunteer.

There is a pole on the website to vote for 4Wheeler of the Year. All are encouraged to go vote. 21 members have voted so far.

NEW BUSINESS:

Frank Winston reports on Tread Lightly. Motion to give \$250 to Tread Lightly passes without discussion.

Cathy will continue to sell raffle tickets during the picnic and will do the raffle after meeting is adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 5:02 p.m.



This my last newsletter article before the new president gets his/her turn. I want to take a moment to thank the officers and appointees for all their support throughout this last year. Many do not get much recognition for their hard work, thanks guys and gals. With a management team like we have had it makes the President's job really easy. It is important as many as possible attend the July meeting, that's when we vote for next yea's officers. We have nominees for all the position but nominations are open until the meeting. We can use another nominee for the Trails Coordinator position. The current nominee will gladly step aside if there any one else that wants to step up. During the July meeting the NM4W of Year award will be announced. This year we had a very good turnout for the vote, more that in recent memory.

This year has been of to a great start with several runs each month and two camping trips. Let keep up this trend. There are room for more rides, all we need are trail leaders which is not hard to do. If you want to lead a ride contact the Trails Coordinator he will get you the right path.

That's all for my last article so "happy trails to everyone", guess I should have been sitting on a horse to say that!



Vice President's Soap Box

By Jack Dickey

Congratulations to Timothy Marrs and Bill and Carla Turner for attaining 5 points and being approved by the membership as Voting Members at the annual picnic! These folks have been very active, attending numerous meetings and rides. Bill and Carla travel from Santa Rosa and asked to become full voting members. Also, during the annual picnic, Bill Congdon from Pecos, NM was approved by the membership as an Associate Member. We look forward to seeing these folks for many more meetings and rides.

Timothy drives a stock 1986 CJ-7 with a 12,000# winch and sometimes tows a 1937 Army jeep trailer. Bill and Carla have a 2015 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 2 door with a Dana Ultimate 44 front axle, AEV 2.5" lift, and 35" BFG KO2 tires along with aluminum fenders, full skid plates, upgraded front and rear bumpers, and rock sliders to fend off trail damage. Bill Congdon sports a nicely built 2017 Tacoma riding on 35" tires with a Marlin crawler, upgraded front running gear, 5.29 axle gearing, and ARB lockers.

Kenneth Shiau along with his pup attended his first meeting at the annual picnic. Kenneth has a mildly built 2004 Lexus GX 470. All of us are glad you found us and look forward to seeing you at meetings and/or trail rides. Let me or any member know if you have questions about NM4W and membership.

The Sheriff and membership are being benevolent as there were NO transgression fines levied at the annual picnic. Remember you can turn yourself in or a member may rat-you-out for trail ride or meeting transgressions. It's all in good fun 😊.

Since the annual picnic, Rich Steele and I attended a full, in-person meeting of the Jemez Mountains Dispersed Recreation Management Collaborative. The collaborative continues its work by identifying various projects related to an activities calendar, motorized travel management, cross boundary coordination with the Valles Caldera National Park, stewardship, recreation ambassadors, and social media and storytelling. Students and staff from the Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute at Highlands University are in the midst of conducting an inventory of dispersed recreation/camping sites and conditions on the west side of the Jemez Mountains. This effort will provide data and information to guide dispersed recreation management in the area. A USFS landscape architect is developing conceptual models for dispersed sites to benefit sustainable recreation and restoration.

Socorro BLM has approved installation of an information kiosk at the Gordy's hilltop parking/staging area off Quebradas Backcountry Byway! BLM has offered a steel two-panel kiosk, heavy equipment for earthwork, and gravel. We are in discussion with BLM and TreatLightly! about expanding the kiosk to three panels. Watch for work days in the next few months. Opportunities like this are what stewardship is all about!

Happy Trails!
Jack Dickey



Jemez Camping Trip

By Jeff Boggs

Our NM4W campers met in Cuba, NM on Friday, June 16, 2023, then gassed up and drove up highway 96. We turned north and climbed up into new territory for this group. We had found a nice campsite for this size group of 11 club members. A nice large meadow with ponderosa pines along the edges. Great for tents in the trees. Our many little dogs liked it too.

Friday, we set up our tents and after we all had dinner, we got a nice campfire going.

At bedtime it was already getting cold at 8200 ft elevation.

During the night, we heard some coyotes singing. Saturday night, too.

The next morning we all slowly climbed out of our sleeping bags and got some breakfast. We took off to explore a very nice forest road. It was a winding road through pine covered forests and finally ended up at a great lookout. If you walked a short distance, the view was down into the Chama River valley above Abiqui Lake. The group also explored other roads, in the afternoon.

That evening another great campfire, with popcorn too. Sunday was the big day for exploring. We covered about 64 miles of roads, that day. Rich lead us out to some very rough low range logging roads. We crossed a river and ended up on a mesa, with a fantastic overlook. From this spot, we could look north up the Chama River valley and see the snowcapped peaks in Colorado. Looking south we could see the Chama River and maybe Abiqui lake.

Lots of great twisty forest roads, with hardly any other people besides us out there. That was the case most of the weekend. Just our little group seeing all new territory.

Monday was time to pack up our gear and say goodbyes. We all had a great time and all want to get back up here for some more camping and exploring all the forest roads we haven't seen yet. This camp area has room for more club members to join us on the next trip to this area.





Jemez South End Ride

By Cliff Meier

On 25 June the club held a fun run on the southern end of the Jemez Ranger District. Eight members, two guests and 3 applicants met at the Walatowa Visitor Center before proceeding on the run. The weather was in the 80s, much cooler than Albuquerque! The first thing we did was to go through the Gilman Tunnels where the 3:10 to Yuma and Lone Ranger movies were partially filmed. After the tunnels we proceeded up to the top of Peggy Mesa. On the mesa we rode along the Jemez Reservation and across the northern top of the reservation. After coming out of the reservation we found a great lunch spot under big, cool Pine trees for lunch. Then we came off the mesa and went



down a long pretty valley. The plan was to go back to the tunnels and air up there except the tunnel area was crowded with cars so we found a spot past the tunnels. The majority of the run was easy with the exception of the start that had some small rocks, ledges, etc. No one had any problems the entire day. The Jemez is still green but drying out.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

NM4W Officers

President Cliff Meier pres@nm4w.org	Vice-President Membership Chairman Jack Dickey vpres@nm4w.org	Secretary Cathy Arlowe sec@nm4w.org
Treasurer Rich Steele treas@nm4w.org	Program Chairman Cathy Dickey prog@nm4w.org	Historian Frank Whiston hist@nm4w.org
Trip Chairman Jeff Boggs trips@nm4w.org	Environmental Affairs Vacant envdir@nm4w.org	

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, webadmin@nm4w.org
 Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



August 1, 2023

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Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2023

By Cathy Arlowe & Shirley Godfrey

The meeting was held at Ric and Diane Henry's house in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

President Cliff Meier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
Secretary Cathy Arlowe stated she needed to leave at 5:30 p.m.

GUESTS:

Glenn Boudreaux, David Collette, Christina Garza, Jonathan Rivera

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Arlowe, Jeff Boggs, Paula Boggs, Cathy Dickey, Jack Dickey, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, Diane Henry, Ric Henry, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, David Mccollum, Patricia Mccollum, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, Jennifer Myers, Myron Myers, John Nolen, Jack Nutter, Jorge Pacho, Donna Pacho, Scott Potter, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Beth P. Steele, Richard Steele, Glenn Vialpando, Rebagayle Vialpando, Beth Whiston, Frank Whiston

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Jack Dickey

Welcomed guests Glenn Boudreaux, David Collette, Christina Garza, and Jonathan Rivera and explains the point system and membership.

John Nolan, Glenn Vialpando, and Rebagayle Vialpando are voted in as full members without discussion.

Associate member Dan Dale is voted in without discussion.

Transgression Fines: No transgression fines were assessed.

PRESIDENT - Cliff Meier

Election of Officers

Names announced for proposed officers. Motion and 2nd. All accepted without discussion.

Officers for fiscal year 2023, starting August 1st – President-Jack Dickey, Vice President-Jeff Boggs, Treasurer-Richard Steele, Secretary-Shirley Godfrey, Trip Chairman-Cliff Meier, Program Chair-Cathy Dickey, Historian-Frank Whiston, Environmental Chair-Vacant.

SECRETARY’S REPORT - Cathy Arlowe

Meeting minutes from June of 2023 are accepted as published.
 Round of applause for Cathy and all her work. Cathy leaves the building.....

TREASURER’S REPORT - Richard Steele

Rich reported as of July 8, 2023, the checking account has \$5,574.41, the savings account has \$8,650.50.

The following is a breakdown for the Fiscal year 2022-2023

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENSE</u>	
Pay Pay dues	\$2,840.63	Swag	\$ 575.64
Cash/check dues	\$ 528.75	P.O. Box	\$ 226.00
Total dues	\$3,369.38	Picnic/meeting	\$ 673.34
		PayPal fee	\$ 134.93
		Charities	\$1,000.00
		Awards	\$ 197.50
		Blue Ribbon	\$ 125.00
		C.O.R.E.	\$ 250.00
		NMOHVA	\$ 100.00
Swag income	\$ 949.25	TreadLightly	\$ 250.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$4,318.63</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$3,532.41</u>
Total Income	\$4318.63		
Total Expense	<u>\$3532.42</u>		
Net Income	\$ 786.21		
Swag Net Income	\$ 373.61	48%	
Dues Net Income	\$ 412.60	52%	

Question regarding Insurance - Will trail leaders be considered officers? Frank Whiston suggested calling them “appointed staff.”

TRIP CHAIRMAN’S REPORT - Jeff Boggs

Past Events:

June 10, Oak Flats meeting and picnic

June 16-19, Weekend camping trip in the Northern Jemez. Jeff Boggs reported - Great 4 day campout! The ride when to areas club members had never seen before.

June 25, Jemez South End Run, report by Cliff Meier. Area covered – South edge of Jemez into the reservation.

Upcoming Events: (Details for all upcoming events can be found on the website.)

Friday, July 14, 2023 to Sunday, July 16, 2023; Overland to Colorado, led by Jack Dicky.

Saturday, July 22, 2023; West Mesa Rio Rancho to I-40 Route 66 Pit Stop via Rio Puerco Area, led by Jeff Grenier.

Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.; August Monthly Club Meeting hosted by Cliff and Jeanne Meier, 5105 Fairmont Ct NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120.

Saturday, September 9, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.; September Club Meeting 4:00 p.m. hosted by Frank Whiston.

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 to Saturday, October 14, 2023; Chile Challenge, Riverside Campground, Caballio Lake State Park.

Saturday, October 14, 2023; Solar Eclipse Ride, Ticaboo, Ut. Leader needed. Information on the website.

Club Meetings in May through September are potluck.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT- This position is still vacant. No report.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT – Cathy Dickey. Currently out of hats will reorder. Club does have stickers an license plates.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank Whiston. Thank you for uploading pictures to the web site. There are about 1700 photos.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT - Don Roy. Working on normal club business and minor fixes of things what is broken.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT – Don Roy. Don has been getting only ride and officer's reports. Anyone can submit an article. "How I fixed...."

OLD BUSINESS:

Jemez Mountains Dispersed Recreation Management Collaborative Meeting – report by Jack Dickey. The Forest Service hired Highlands University students to measure camp sites on the West side of the Jemez. Also, they may reopen the motorized use map.

NEW BUSINESS:

Frank Whiston and Jack Dickey discussed a project in conjunction with Tread Lightly for Godry's Hill regarding Information Kiosk. Asked for approval of \$1,000.00 from the club to help build kiosk. Discussion. Proposal - raise amount up to \$1,500.00 Motion on the table. Further discussion. Passed at \$1,500.00 for project.

Jeanne Meier presented lost/found items from past meetings.

Cliff Meier thanks everyone for making his job as the Club President an easy one.

An additional point was given to Ric and Diane Henry (hosts for the meeting) and they were voted in as full members without discussion.

Jeff Boggs received the 4Wheeler of the Year award.

Membership dues are due July 31, 2023. Grace period until August 31, 2023. After that you start over accumulating point.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:10 p.m.



President's Report

By new Pres, Jack Dickey

Thanks to all folks who served as officers and in appointed positions over the last 12 months. As I move into the President's position on August 1, I am grateful for everyone that was willing to take an elected or appointed position for the next 12 months. We have a great leadership team. I anticipate we will be able to keep club activities interesting and relevant as well as offer great trail rides.

Some areas of interest for training include safe winch operation; tools, gear, and equipment to bring for rides; land navigation, and how to lead a ride. Let your officers know what other topics related to full-size four wheeling you are interested in. If you have knowledge on these topics or others, please consider organizing a training. There are plenty of folks in the club that can help, just ask. Since our meeting time is relatively short and we have to be out of the room on time, topics needing more time will likely be on evenings or weekends.

Our Director of Environmental Affairs position is still vacant. This position takes a person who is able monitor US Forest Service, BLM, and local government activities that have an effect on our enjoyment of four wheeling on public lands. Could that special person be you?

Rich Steele, Frank Whiston, and I continue to work with Socorro BLM and TreadLightly! on installation of an information kiosk at the Gordy's hilltop parking/staging area off Quebradas Backcountry Byway. The plan is to expand BLM's steel two-panel kiosk to three panels. TreadLightly! will likely provide the panels, and NM4W will provide an additional steel post, hardware, concrete, and installation labor. The panels will likely include a trail map, TreadLightly! messaging, and area interpretive information such as history, geology, and environment. Watch the calendar for work days in the next few months.

Happy Trails!

Jack Dickey



Vice President's Soap Box

By old VP, Jack Dickey

Congratulations to Ric and Diane Henry, Glenn and Rebagayle Vialpando, and John Nolen for attaining at least 5 points and being approved by the membership as Voting Members! These folks have been very active, attending numerous meetings and rides. For example, John accumulated 8 points! The Vialpandos and John were previous members and decided to renew their Voting Membership. Also, Don Dale from Santa Fe was approved by the membership as an Associate Member. Don went on a couple of day rides and also the Green River trip.

Ric and Diane have a 2021 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Rubicon 4XE. Glenn and Rebagayle drive a 2011 Toyota 4Runner Trail with a winch as well as drivetrain and suspension upgrades. John has fun with a very capable, highly modified (and great sounding) 2008 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited X. Don runs the trails with a 2022 Jeep Rubicon. We look forward to seeing these folks for many more meetings and rides.

David Collette, Christina Garza, and Jonathan Rivera attended their first meeting. All of us are glad you found us and look forward to seeing you at meetings and/or trail rides. Let me or any member know if you have questions about NM4W and membership.

The Sheriff and membership are being kind as there were NO transgression fines levied. There was some discussion about some silly things that happened to members. But nothing rose to the level of a fine. Remember you can turn yourself in or a member may rat-you-out for trail ride or meeting transgressions. It's all in good fun 😊.

Happy Trails!



Director of Environmental Affairs

**This officer position is currently open,
contact any officer to volunteer.**



Jemez Ride – July 9th

By Jeff Boggs

We had 10 4x4's show up in Cuba, NM on Sunday. After gassing up and having a quick pre run meeting we drove up to Hwy 96 and turned north, seeking high altitude and cooler temperatures. We had several first timers with us, Jonathan Rivera and Jasmine, Glenn Boudreaux, Christina Garza, Brendan Hodgson, and Kelly Pederson.

John Nolan had and his little dog Frida with us and Jorge and Donna Pacho also brought along their dog Jake to do some exploring.

Von and Erica Stell, Cliff Meier, Cathy Arlowe, joined Jeff Boggs to do an exploratory ride into the north Jemez, SFNF. Off we went to a good air down spot. We climbed 1000 ft in elevation very quickly and stayed above 8000 ft all day. This provided low 80° temps and a nice wind helped out for a cool day for this time of the year.

We drove a nice forest road to a great lookout for lunch. We could see Lake Abiquiu off in the distance. After lunch, we continued out the the end of FR 77 and had a good view into the Chama River valley. The mesa top roads in this area are all rugged, rocky and good for low range driving. We found a nice canyon road and were treated to many cattle grazing in the valley. A dead end turned us around. We explored another Mesa top road, out and back.

Everyone enjoyed seeing all the new forest areas.

The forest road we used to go up into the mountains was a very nice gravel road, but there is another way into this part of the Jemez from the highway. We wanted to finish on this forest road. We found it and turned downhill. We found it to be steep and rugged, with great views of the valley below, sandstone cliffs on both sides and a great view of the Jemez mountains to the south. LOW RANGE

and careful driving were needed. It was slow going and, by far, the most exciting road of the day. The best for last, I guess.



Back down to pavement, we aired up and said our goodbyes. There are many more roads and vistas to see in this lightly used part of the Jemez Mts. Not too far away for a day trip again. lots of good camping spots, too.

Hope we can plan another exploration up there again. Our maps worked well, and GMRS was good. Dusty roads, Great views!!

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NM4W Officers

<p>President Jack Dickey pres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Membership Chairman Jeff Boggs vpres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Shirley Godfrey sec@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Rich Steele treas@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Cathy Dickey prog@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank Whiston hist@nm4w.org</p>
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Web Site Administrator Don Roy, webadmin@nm4w.org
 Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



September 1, 2023

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Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2023

By Mary Turpin (for Shirley Godfrey)

The meeting was held at Cliff and Jeanne Meier's house in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

President absent; Vice President Jeff Boggs called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Past Secretary Cathy Arlowe was to fill in for new Secretary Shirley Godfrey, but Cathy could not stay for entire meeting, so Mary Turpin substituted as Secretary.

GUESTS:

Nico Chavez, Jonathan Rivera, Mary Turpin

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cathy Arlowe, Jeff Boggs, Jeff Grenier, Ric Henry, Diane Henry, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, Myron Myers, Scott Potter, Christine Robson, Steve Robson, NaDeen Roland, Don Roy, Chris Sears, Richard Steele, Beth P. Steele, Glenn Vialpando, Rebagayle Vialpando

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Jack Dickey

Welcomed guests and explained the point system and membership.

Transgression Fines: No transgression fines were assessed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Cathy Arlowe

Meeting minutes from July of 2023 are accepted as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Richard Steele

Rich reported as of July 8, 2023, the checking account has \$6,003.64, the savings account has \$8,653.07. PayPal account has \$2,075.87.

Email reminder for annual membership dues going out by the end of August. As of today, 63 member accounts have paid renewals; 32 have not. All unpaid members will be deleted from the NM4W club on September 1, 2023.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Cliff Meier

Past Events:

Jeff G – Rio Rancho/West Mesa; Snoopy Rock – fun rock climbing; went to Route 66 for lunch.

Jeff B – Jemez/Santa Fe National Forest – explored unused roads; went to Abiquiu Lake; great views towards Chama.

Upcoming Events: (Details for all upcoming events can be found on the website.)

August 19th; “Middle of the Jemez”; by Cliff Meier – exact trails TBD due to ongoing fire in the Jemez

September 16th; Riley Ghost Town; by Don Roy

Annual Green River, UT run on NM4W website; 1st two weeks of May 2024.

Club Meetings in May through September are potluck.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT- This position is still vacant. No report.

PROGRAM CHAIR’S REPORT – Cathy Dickey. Absent.

HISTORIAN’S REPORT – Frank Whiston. Absent.

WEBMASTER’S REPORT - Don Roy. Requesting Club consider purchasing a large filing cabinet for long-term storage of NM4W archive materials.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR’S REPORT – Don Roy. Request for articles; Microsoft Word format preferred.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rich/Treasurer brought up Insurance questions remaining. Insurance companies want to treat NM4W as a Commercial enterprise; costs are significantly higher – perhaps \$1,250 - \$2,750/year. We are small and informal. Rich is waiting for another questionnaire from underwriters/insurance agents; results may provide clarity. Don Roy says the Club has records for every ride for the last 12 years; this information could provide details about the number of participants, locations run, and other issues. No decision at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Officers will begin having a monthly online meeting to prep for the monthly Club meeting. This is organizational only; no Club decisions to be made independently.

Club renewals are due by August 31.

Website articles needed – info about the Club, items for sale, etc.

Remember to check out the monthly Trail Tales newsletter.

Next meeting (September 9) at Frank & Beth Whiston's house.

Thanks to Cliff and Jeanne Meier for hosting this month's meeting! ☺

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:10 p.m.



President's Report

By Jack Dickey

I apologize for missing the August meeting. Sadly, life got in the way and my time and energy were needed elsewhere. Where has the summer gone? The first day of fall will arrive in 21 days. It has been a great summer season with many trips and regular meetings at member's houses. The four-day trip to the Santa Fe National Forest Cuba Ranger District and the three-day trip to southern Colorado northeast of Chama were very gratifying. Setting up a base camp and exploring seldom driven two-track roads afforded an opportunity to visit with and build friendships with club members more so that at club meetings and on day trips. It was fun to check out each other's camp, see what's cooking, and talk about the day ahead or roads just traveled. After dinner, stories and goodies were shared around the evening campfire. As the fire died down and yawns became more plentiful than words, each retired for the night knowing that more fine fellowship will arise after dawn.

Traveling point to point is rewarding also. Is it the anticipation of another pleasing view around the corner or the challenge of honing ones driving skills when the backcountry road becomes a rocky crawl or a muddy, rutted quagmire that requires 4-low to navigate? At the end of each day, you are rewarded with finding an encampment that, in one's minds eye, is perfect. The long miles necessitate camping efficiency so that time can be spent putting one's feet up, absorbing the mood of the backcountry, and freeing every day detritus from ones mind. When the last dirt mile is driven, a fulfilment arises knowing that you completed the trip driving your rig the way it was intended.

In the next dozen months, lets plan more great adventures, either single day or multi-day, enjoyable meetings, or rewarding trainings. The club has one trip, Green River, that has been an annual event. Could another multi-day camping trip or overland camping trip become an annual event? How about attending Chile Challenge at Caballo Lake State Park? Do you have an idea for a multi-day trip that could be the next annual event for the club? Don't hold back an idea. Let an officer know. We can help bring your idea to reality!

Happy Trails!

Jack Dickey



Vice President's Soap Box

By Jack Dickey

There is no Vice-President's report this month.



Director of Environmental Affairs

This officer position is currently open,
contact any officer to volunteer.



Off-Roaders and Coffee

By Jeff Boggs

Several NM4W folks attended the Off Roaders and Coffee event at Rust is Gold Coffee shop on Eubank and Comanche on Sunday morning. 8-13-2023, 9-12 noon.

What a good showing of all kinds of 4x4's, Sandrails, Prerunners, motorcycles, Overlanders, Custom, hot rods, VW's, and coffee drinkers.

Speed Shark put on the event and did a great job of parking 50 vehicles in a small area. A raffle for prizes happened.

Everyone had a great time. Great place to grab a cup of coffee, in a very unique Coffee Shop. Met lots of folks, and had some great discussions on builds and ideas. Many different off road groups got to network and visit.





2023 New Mexico Four-Wheeler of the Year

This award is the most coveted of all as the winner is selected by the club members and presented to the person who has gone beyond the norm and has made significant contributions to the New Mexico Four Wheelers. This year, several people received multiple nominations – Jeff Boggs, Jack Dickey, Rich Steele, and Don Roy. Thanks to each of them for their support. The winner of this year's award goes to Jeff Boggs. Congratulations Jeff!

Previous winners: Current club members are indicated in blue.



- 2023 [Jeff Boggs](#)
- 2022 [Don Roy](#)
- 2021 [Frank G. Whiston](#)
- 2020 [Frank G. Whiston](#)
- 2019 [Frank G. Whiston](#)
- 2018 [Ross Burchard](#)
- 2017 [Bill Gardner](#)
- 2016 [Jennifer Chapin](#)
- 2015 [Jennifer Chapin](#)
- 2014 [Don Roy](#)
- 2013 [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 Peoples](#)
- 2003 [Leon Duggar](#)
- 2002 [Glenn Bontly](#)
- 2001 [Pat Brady](#)
- 2000 [Mark Wolf](#)
- 1999 [Mark Wolf](#)
- 1998 [Bob Telepak](#)
- 1997 [Charlie Wilson](#)
- 1996 [Mark Werkmeister](#)

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NM4W Officers

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 Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



October 1, 2023

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Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2023

By Shirley Godfrey

The meeting was held at Frank and Beth Whiston's house in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

President Jack Dickey called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

GUESTS: Glenn Boudreaux, Jonathan Rivera, and Mary Turpin

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cathy Arlowe, Jack Dickey, Shirley Godfrey, Diane Henry, Ric Henry, Jack Nutter, Lauri Rector, Christine Robson, Steve Robson, Diego Serna, Lysle Serna Beth P. Steele, Richard Steel, Wayne Sullivan, Carla Turner, Neil Turner, Beth Whiston, Frank Whiston.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Jack Dickey

VP Jeff Boggs on a camping trip. Six new applicants were at the last meeting. Jonathan Rivera voted in as full member without discussion via motion by Cathy Arlowe, seconded by Richard Steele. Transgression Fines: No transgression fines were assessed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Shirley Godfrey

Meeting minutes written by Mary Turpin from August of 2023 were accepted as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Richard Steele

- Fiscal year - \$3,125.69 - 81 paying member. 68 used PayPal, 10 paid with cash or check
- Club paid PayPal \$131.81 in fees.
- Checking account - \$8571.14 Savings - \$8655.64
- Motion by Jack Nutter to accept Treasurer's report, seconded by Beth Whiston. Treasurer's report accepted without discussion.
- Jack Dickey submitted \$362.60 from 50/50 raffle, shirts, etc. from program sales.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – given by Frank Whiston

Past Events:

- Off Roaders & Coffee Event was held at Rust is Gold Coffee. Jeff Boggs and Frank Whiston attended.
- Exploratory Caja Del Rio with Jeff Grenier, no report.
- Run to Manzano Mountains with Cliff Meier. Trails OK, Cliff got stuck and had to be pulled out. Hey, he needs to pay a fine!

- Exploratory Ride, Cerro Colorado, Blackbird Hill and Wind Mesa, with Jeff Grenier and one guest.
- Cedro Peak with Don Roy. Good run, 8 vehicles with 3 guests.
- Farmington Crawl going on this weekend.

Upcoming Events: (Details for all upcoming events can be found on the website.)

- Riley Ghost Town with Don Roy, Saturday, Sept. 23.
- CORE in Colorado, multi event happening Sep 22-24 in Buena Vista, CO.
- Upcoming 4x4 one on one basic winch safety operations.
- Chili Challenge, put on by the Las Cruces club.

NEXT MEETING will be held at North Domingo Baca, Thursday, October 12th.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT - This position is still vacant. Jack Dickey cancelled the club's cleanup day due to lack of participation/sign ups.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT – Cathy Dickey, unable to attend the meeting. Jack Dickey submitted \$362.60 from 50/50 raffle, shirts, etc. from program sales.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank Whiston. Three scrapbooks are on display. They range from 1958, the 70's and 90's.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT - Don Roy states there is nothing to report.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT – Don Roy. “It came out.”

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - Jack Dickey

Attended an online meeting with Thread Lightly regarding Gordy's Hill and the Kiosk.

The Club approved \$1,500.00 to help build the Gordy's Hill Kiosk. \$300.00 has been spent. There will now be 3 panels for the Kiosk instead of 2.

1. Messaging of Thread Lightly
2. The map of the area
3. Interpretation of the area information

Jack's vision is to adopt Gordy's Hill; have signage/trail ratings; and the Kiosk by the end of the year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Insurance. In February, Richard Steele started looking into a D&O policy. Five brokers cannot find something that meets our needs. It was suggested to table the discussion. Don Roy made the motion and Jack Nutter seconded it. Someone then suggested commercial liability and was informed it was too expensive.

NEW BUSINESS:

Medallions are given to first time tail leaders. Jeff Grenier, not present.

Last year's most point person is JACK DICKEY with 47 points. Jack Nutter was second with 40 points.

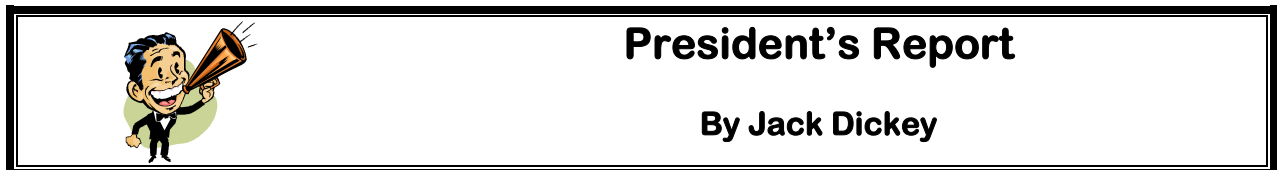
The Board of Directors are updating the SOP's. Frank showed the changes for review on a backyard movie screen.

- Changes to Associate membership, must be sponsored by a club member and attend 1 meeting or 1 trip.

- What does a trip leader do with the paper waivers. Discussion regarding paper waivers. Paper waivers are to be given to the President for keeping. On line E-signing.
- Secretary - removal of non-secretarial duties.
- Treasure - added duties

Suggested to put the SOPs and Bylaws deeper into the website so nonmembers are not able to locate/read them until becoming a member.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:12 p.m.



Does Getting Involved Matter?

Over fifteen years ago BLM prepared an overall Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Socorro Field Office which included Johnson Hill as a special recreation management area. All of us know this area as “Gordy’s”. The RMP directed the Socorro Field Office to prepare a travel and recreation management plan for Gordy’s.

Several years prior to the RMP being prepared, one of our honorary members, Mark Werkmeister, and other club members worked with then Socorro Field Office recreation planner, Mike Bilbo, to map out existing and future motorcycle and 4x4 trails across the area. NM4W installed a sign at the Johnson Hill staging area in Arroyo de la Parida. NM4W, NM Tech Off Road Club, and others in both motorcycle and 4x4 communities worked to “put tracks” on the routes that were mapped. Multiple times when BLM made indications that the travel management plan was being worked on, some of our members met with BLM and provided the trail map.

Fast forward to Summer 2022, BLM Socorro Field Office released the draft Johnson Hill Travel and Recreation Management Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) and opened a comment period. The EA included three alternatives that ranged from lower levels of recreation and motorized use with emphasis on natural and cultural resource protections up to an expanded range of recreational and travel route use with visitor service amenity development while providing required protections for natural and cultural resources. As required, there was also a no action alternative. The EA also included maps and route reports for trails at Gordy’s.

Several members of NM4W as well as local and national public land use advocacy groups reviewed the EA including the route reports. Numerous errors were found in the route reports as well as BLM’s EA analysis. Our Historian, Frank Whiston, prepared NM4W’s comments and several members submitted their own comments pointing out the errors and urging BLM to select the alternative that fully supported a meaningful motorized recreation user experience. It is important to note that the comments submitted were based on facts and not emotional responses bemoaning possible trail closures.

This September, BLM Socorro Field Office provided NM4W with a map showing Johnson Hill/Gordy’s approved trails under the EA/recreation management plan. Other than the pipeline trail, which is now designated as administrative use only, there were no trail closures! Almost all of

the existing 4x4 trails were designated as “Open”. A few were designated as “Limited – 4x4 only”. The single-track trails used by motorcycles and mountain bikes also appear to have been retained. We have yet to see the final signed EA decision, but it appears BLM selected an alternative that benefits motorized recreation and visitor service amenity development. NM4W, Tread Lightly! and BLM Socorro Field Office continue to work on the information kiosk for the staging/parking off of Quebradas Backcountry Byway. Future plans include grading/leveling the staging/parking area.

As your President, and user of the Gordy’s area, I am grateful for the numerous hours our members and others devoted to analyzing the EA and providing comments to BLM. Based on the approved map; route report errors appear to have been corrected and comments regarding route designation changes have been incorporated.

Getting involved does matter! We are lucky to have a BLM office that listens to recreational users of the public lands they manage and makes decisions that support motorized recreation. Unfortunately, as I wrote this, BLM released the final signed decision for the Labyrinth Rims/Gemini Bridges near Moab. Not for lack of response by individuals, clubs, and public land use advocacy groups (BlueRibbon Coalition of which NM4W is a member); BLM made a regressive decision for those who enjoy recreating in this area. The plan closes 317 miles of world class backcountry roads and trails.

NM4W has a long-standing relationship with BLM Socorro Field Office and we will continue to work with them to support 4x4 recreation at Gordy’s. In the past, we have supported Cibola National Forest Sandia Ranger District with projects at the Cedro Peak area. NM4W is now in a position to become the steward of 4x4 trails at Gordy’s much like clubs in Farmington, Montrose, and Grand Junction are stewards of 4x4 trails on nearby BLM managed public lands. Will you be involved at Cedro Peak and Gordy’s? Will you provide written comments when the next Environmental Assessment threatens to reduce appropriate motorized recreation on public lands? I hope so, because we must do everything we can to “*Keep Public Lands Open to the Public*”!

Happy Trails!

Jack Dickey



Director of Environmental Affairs

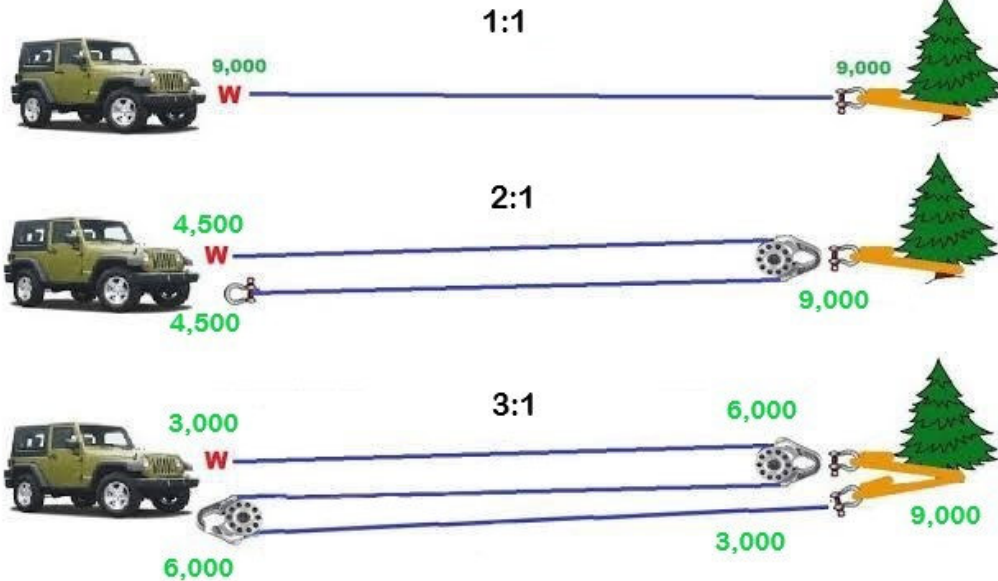
**This officer position is currently open,
contact any officer to volunteer.**



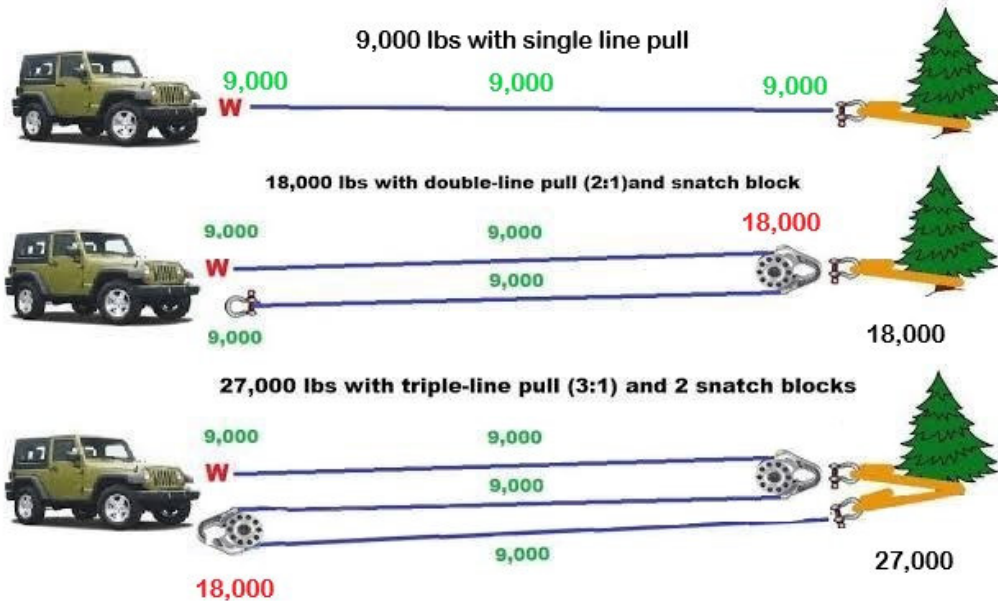
4x4 101 – Basic Winch Operations

By Jack Dickey

Decreasing Winch Load



Increased Pulling Capacity



Know your equipment and set up:

- 1) What are the maximum (breaking) and working (safe) load limits of every piece of your recovery gear (vehicle anchor points, winch, winch rope, pulleys, shackles, anchor straps, etc.)?
- 2) Where is the weakest link in your recovery system?



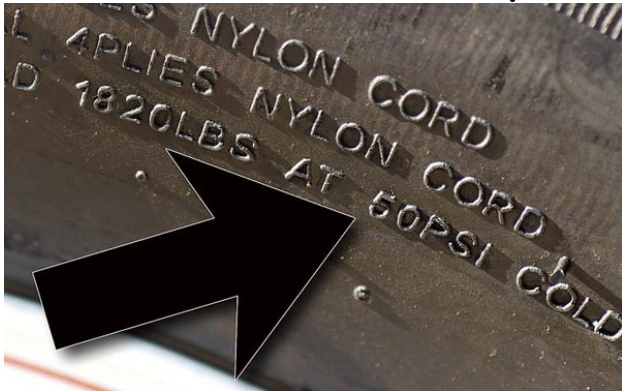
Tire Pressures and The Subtle Influences

By Frank Whiston

How We Measure Pressure

Atmospheric pressure is the force exerted on objects by the weight of the air molecules above them. While air molecules are invisible, they have mass and occupy space. When it comes to measuring tire inflation pressure, it is important to realize there is a difference between atmospheric pressure and gauge pressure. Most pressure gauges (including all tire pressure gauges) are designed to measure the amount of pressure above the ambient atmospheric pressure. This is PSIG.

Temperature Influences



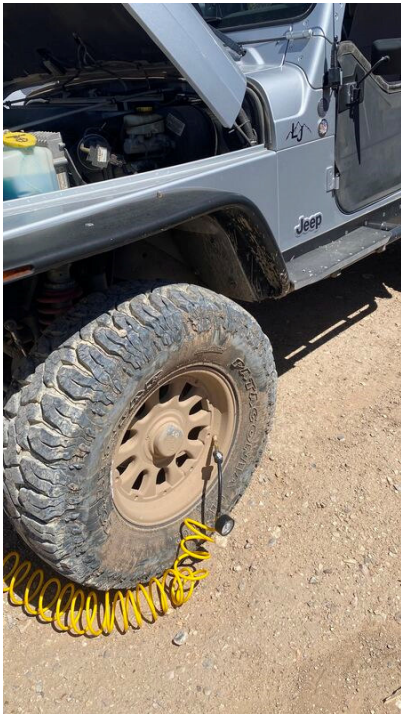
Have you ever noticed how some tires state a maximum pressure on the sidewall, but it also says COLD? What does that mean? Tires are considered cold when the vehicle has been parked for three hours or more, or if the vehicle has been driven less than a mile at moderate speed. Since air is a gas, it expands when heated and contracts when cooled. The rule of thumb is for every 10° Fahrenheit change in air temperature, tire pressures will change about 2% (up with higher temperatures and down with lower). This

means that light-duty, standard-pressure tires (typically inflated to 30-50 psi) used in applications on cars, vans and light trucks will change by about 1 psi.

Altitude Influences

As altitude increases, atmospheric pressure decreases. For example, atmospheric pressure pushes against the earth at 14.7 pounds per square inch at sea level, yet drops to only 10.1 pounds per square inch at 10,000 feet. Since a tire mounted on a wheel essentially establishes a flexible airtight (at least in the short term) pressure chamber in which the tire is shaped and reinforced by internal cords, it retains the same volume of air molecules regardless of its elevation above sea level. However, if tire inflation were set with a tire pressure gauge at sea level (where the atmospheric pressure of 14.7 pounds per square inch is used as ambient atmospheric pressure by the gauge), the same tire pressure gauge would indicate the pressure has increased at higher elevations where the ambient atmospheric pressure is lower. Those measured at the 5,000-foot level (where an atmospheric pressure of only 12.2 pounds per square inch is the ambient pressure) would indicate about 2-3 psi higher than at sea level.





Airing Down and Back Up

1 PSI for temperature and 2-3 PSI for altitude, these are small numbers, right? Who cares? Let's consider going on a run up in the Jemez Mountains. Most of us live in the Albuquerque area and drive our trail rigs on the highway to the trail. We finally get to the dirt where we air our tires down. Typical tires experience a temperature increase of roughly 50 degrees after running on the highway for just a half-hour. at 1 PSI for every 10°, your tires are at least 5 PSI higher than when you left home. We air them down without being parked for 3 hours, so are you really airing down as far as you thought? We haven't even figured about altitude. Let's say that the average elevation in ABQ is 5,000 ft. above sea level. What if the air down location is at 8,000 ft? Better add another ~1 PSI for that. We are now 6-7 PSI higher than what a cold pressure measured at home would be. What do you do when airing back up? Chances are, you are still at a higher altitude than home and your tires are still heated from use. If you simply stop airing back up when your tire gage indicates your normal COLD street pressure that you run in town, the next morning back in town, your tires are probably going to be 5-8 PSI lower than your target pressure. Food for thought.



Riley Photography Ride

By Don Roy

We had 14 vehicles (4 were first time on NM4W ride), 17 people, and 6 dogs! I want to thank Rich Steele for taking the back end all day. Also thanks to Willy Crawley for getting me unstuck and for helping find the river exit to get to the Ghost Town. More photos are in the [Gallery](#)!



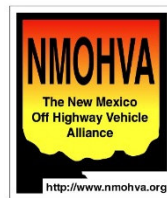


Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

NM4W Officers

<p>President Jack Dickey pres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Membership Chairman Jeff Boggs vpres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Shirley Godfrey sec@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Rich Steele treas@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Cathy Dickey prog@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank Whiston hist@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Cliff Meier trips@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Vacant envdir@nm4w.org</p>	

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, webadmin@nm4w.org
 Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



November 1, 2023

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org



Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2023

By Shirley Godfrey

The meeting was held at North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Vice President Jeff Boggs called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

GUESTS:

Karl Byrd, Ben Webb, Andrea Webb, Mary Turpin, Matthew Houlne, Michael Norte, and Michael Yaskulski.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jeff Boggs, Bob Brazell, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, Ric Henry, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, John Nolen, Jack Nutter, Lauri Rector, Don Roy, Richard Steel, and William Zobe.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs

- Club President, Jack Dickey was attending Chili Challenge.
- Long time club member Frank Whiston Sr. past away. Condolences to his family.
- New applicants since the last meeting – Mike Norte and Mathew Houlne.
- Guests – Karl Byrd, Ben Webb and Andrea Webb. Mary Turpin did not want to be voted in until next month when her good friend Cathy Arlowe will be attending the meeting.
- Bob Brazell voted in as a full member without discussion.
- Christina Garza was voted in as an associate member.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Shirley Godfrey

Meeting minutes were accepted as published.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Richard Steele

Checking account - \$8,194.28 Savings - \$8,658.13

There has been no activity since the last meeting. Report accepted.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – given by Jeff Boggs

Past Events:

- Jeff Grenier's reported his October 4th ride did not go as expected – locked gate. Went around to Grants and then home.

- Don Roy – Transgression fine. “Pleading guilty and not talking about it.” Don got stuck in the water on his Riley Ghost Town ride. 17 people were on the ride. “It’s a short cut across the river, 5 minutes if you don’t get stuck.”

Upcoming Events: (Details for all upcoming events can be found on the website.)

- Oct. 14, day of the Solar eclipse. – No ride leader. Event cancelled.
- Oct. 15, Richard Steele would like to do a ride to Gordy’s. Contact him if interested.
- Nov. 9, Next meeting will be held at North Domingo Baca
- Nov. 11, BLM land – Gallina/Mesa Lucero Ride – Jeff Boggs
- Nov. 12, Enchanted Hills Trail Ride – David Ham
- Dec. 2, Christmas Tree/Snow Ride – Jack Nutter
- Dec. 9, Meeting and Christmas Party at the home of Diego Serna. **3:00 PM**

Jeff Grenier mentioned the Marine’s birthday party to be held Nov 10th at Sandia Casino.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT - No report.

PROGRAM CHAIR’S REPORT – Cathy Dickey, unable to attend the meeting. No 50/50 raffle or swag will be sold tonight.

HISTORIAN’S REPORT – Frank Whiston unable to attend the meeting. He would encourage people to post pictures to the web site.

WEBMASTER’S REPORT - Don Roy - the paper waiver scan/upload ability is implemented.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR’S REPORT – Don Roy. Received a couple of good articles for the last issue.

OLD BUSINESS:

The operating procedures have been updated on the web site. Associate members will have to be sponsored and must attend one event. An Associate is not a voting member. Full membership is \$45.00 / Associate membership \$22.50.
Kiosk at Gordy’s Hill is now on hold.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Medallions are given to first time tail leaders. Jeff Grenier was to receive his medallion but the medallion was with Jack Dickey. Jeff Boggs presented a trophy in its place until the next meeting.
- Nadine Roland will host the Nov. 9th meeting.
- Don’t forget about the Green River Trip. Guy Conway is looking into new trails for the 2024 trip.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:32 p.m.



President's Report

By Jack Dickey

GRATEFUL

Fall is perhaps the best time of year in New Mexico with green chile, warm days, cool nights, little wind, hot air balloons, and great 4-wheeling. Regrettably in October Frank Whiston Sr., a longtime member of NM4W, passed away after a long illness. Frank Sr. led many trips and lent a hand to members along the way. His legacy helped make NM4W the club that it is today.

As holidays fast approach, I am grateful for NM4W, its members, trip leaders, and officers. The club has an incredible history of all types of outings, just browse our photo archives. Our diverse members, past and present, are enjoyable and enlightening to be together with at meetings and trail rides. Some of our members even have their adventures broadcast on YouTube or Facebook! Trip leaders work hard to provide interesting, worthwhile trail runs of all types. The collective contributions of our officers keep the club moving along administratively ensuring that our outstanding legacy as the oldest and in my humble opinion the best 4-wheel drive club in New Mexico continues.

Cathy and I had a great time at Chile Challenge this year. Although there are a lot of new faces putting on the event, Chile Challenge 2023 was as good as any in the past. Registration and inspection were fast, trail runs left on time, evening events were well organized, and the raffle was large with three winches as top prizes. It would be awesome if NM4W has a large crowd at Chile Challenge 2024!

Happy Trails!

Jack Dickey



Vice President's Soap Box

By Jeff Boggs

Thanks for the pictures that members post from the rides we do. This is historical documentation of NM4W activities. And it's fun to see the areas we travel into.

Having a short article, from the ride leader, is a good way to document the ride. A historical way to record "FINES", if some unusual event happened during the ride. LOL!! Any member that went on the ride can also write up an article, too.

We are having good attendance on most of our rides. Some members are stepping up and leading rides.

Thank you for extra service to NM4W!!
The more rides, the better.

New Mexico is a land of open public dirt roads, in every corner of our state. We have explored a good portion of them. Some rides we repeat and that's Okay, because these areas are fantastic to drive and explore, again and again.

This winter we hope to explore more desert areas.

If any member needs assistance regarding leading a ride, please contact me or the Trip Chairman for any tips. Other officers have a lot of experience with leading rides, too.

Exploratory rides are rides that are new areas that a leader can do. Just announce this in your ride information.

Your group will follow your route and we can all see a new area together. Yes, we may need to turn around at a locked gate and some roads may just dead end. We can try every dirt road in an area. Sometimes we find some great new area that becomes a regular club ride.

Most 4x4 drivers have some sort of map system, either old school paper maps, or electronic mapping systems. These are both good to use, together.

NM4W has a long history of going into the Back country and seeing what's out there. Let's keep doing this and use those 4x4's that we have.

4x4's are great for seeing the backcountry. And new 4x4's are coming on to the market and after-market support keeps the older 4x4's going strong.

Our hobby has great support for continuing our sport.
See you out on the Trail!!!!



Director of Environmental Affairs

*(This officer position is currently open,
contact any officer to volunteer.)*

This report is by Jack Dickey

Gordy's

At the end of September, I fabricated an additional post, roof panel, and frame gussets for the Gordy's information kiosk. The steel was purchased using NM4W funding approved by the membership.

On a couple of occasions I have spoken with Denny Apachito at Socorro BLM. Due to federal budget issues, BLM does not have funding to do work on the kiosk at this time (fuel, supplies, equipment repairs). So, construction is on hold. Also, due to workload, their GIS specialist currently does not have time to work on a map for the kiosk.

The good news is that BLM recently received a sizable grant (\$500K) from NM Dept. of Game and Fish to develop Johnson Hill/Gordy's as an OHV area in accordance with the recently approved environmental assessment. The next step for BLM is to get their engineers out to the Quebradas

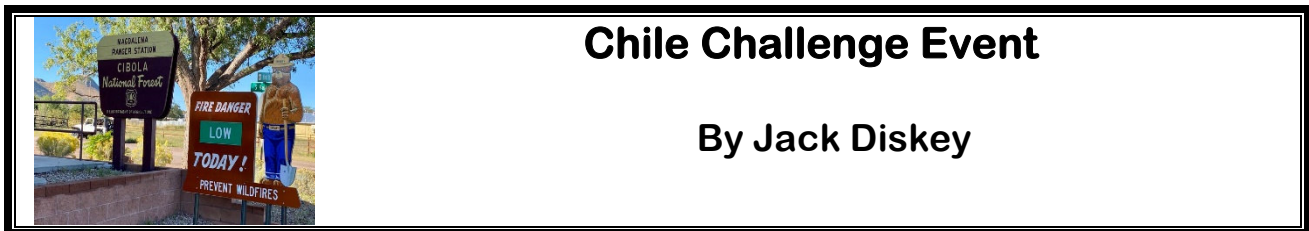
kiosk and staging/parking area site to prepare a grading plan. Also, reading between the lines on some of Denny's comments, I suspect that grading work and possibly kiosk installation might be done by a contractor. The timeframe for kiosk and staging/parking area construction is unknown for now. It takes time to schedule BLM engineers.

So, it seems NM4W involvement in developing Gordy's might change. It appears we won't be doing any on the ground work in the near future. Hopefully, our future involvement will be more than clean-ups and volunteer days. On November 7th Rich Steel and I plan to drop off the kiosk materials at Socorro BLM and meet with Denny Apachito to check on project progress and opportunities for NM4W to be involved. So, stay tuned!

Jemez Mountains Dispersed Recreation Management Collaborative

I have stepped down as Stewardship Working Group chairperson. The commitment for that working group and its action items were more than I wanted to volunteer for. But I will be working with our Honorary Member Mark Werkmeister in the Travel Management Working Group. Mark is also a NMOVA board member. Mark and Jemez District Ranger Jeremy Golston have identified several roads that were closed during development of the Motorized Vehicle Use Map that may be eligible to be reopened. The district ranger is concerned about proliferation of UTV use along FR376. These roads previously connected to FR376 from the east. With reopening, these roads would help to disperse motorized vehicle use and make access east of the road easier for both recreational users and firefighting personnel. The next step is to walk the closed sections of road to evaluate if and how they might be used for motorized vehicles.

Disappointingly, Rich Steele and I did not get early notification about an October 26th collaborative meeting. We both had scheduled other activities and were not able to attend.



Like an Old Friend

After a two-year absence due to the pandemic and traveling to Trail Hero in Sand Hollow, Utah; Cathy and Jack Dickey attended the annual Chile Challenge four-wheel drive event at Caballo Lake, New Mexico. We had attended many Chile Challenges in years past both at Las Cruces and Caballo Lake. While there were many new faces it was great to see friends from past trips. There were folks from all across New Mexico, neighboring states and I met folks from Alabama and Arkansas!

Although we couldn't get a campsite at Caballo Lake State Park Riverside Campground, the event headquarters, our campsite at Appaloosa Campground was equally satisfying. The campground was quiet and there were fantastic views of the lake and mountains to the east.



As we were lounging in camp Tuesday evening before trail rides the next day some folks set up camp next to ours. We introduced ourselves and recognized Associate Members Helen and Joe Breton from Hondo, Texas. They were on the 2022 Green River Trip and remembered us talking about Chile Challenge. Like at Green River, they had their Toyota Tacoma and A-liner camper.

Morning and evening we were delighted to see hundreds of Sandhill Cranes flying above the lake and Rio Grande.

As before, Chile Challenge offered easy to extreme trails with experienced trail leaders. Helen and Joe did easy trails (rated 2 and 3) including Palomas Gap, El Rio Grande, Redhouse Mountain Loop, and Bottletree Loop. Cathy and I took on extreme trails (rated 8 and 9).

Wednesday morning, we met up with our trail leader, Lenn an old timer from Las Cruces, and four other rigs and headed out for Backstage Extreme an 8-rated trail. Backstage Extreme, which is a newer trail in the Caballo area and one we had not run before, is a technical trail full of boulders and ledges.

Our small group was well matched with experience drivers and capable rigs. One rig had to hook up a winch line on the biggest ledge as it kept catching its belly and its tires couldn't quite get enough grip. Otherwise, we moved through the trail without issue, exited via Backstage Pass trail and had an early lunch. After lunch, the group decided to do Brandon's Boulders an 8-rated trail. Brandon's has, you guessed it, lots of large boulders. The exit of the first section is a rather large, sharp ledge that requires good tire placement to get over. The second section, previously called Hooker's Corner





(named for Tracy Hooker from Las Cruces who helped establish the trail) offers more ledges and large boulders. Our buggy, Rocinante, excelled in the technical boulders and ledges. Like in the morning, the group moved steadily through the trail and everyone was back to their campsites by midafternoon. That evening we shared our campfire with Helen and Joe and got further acquainted.



Thursday morning was breezy and a little cooler. We met up with 15 other rigs. Our trail leader and tail gunner were long time participants previously from El Paso but now from Colorado. The rigs included modified Jeeps, rock buggies, rock bouncer like buggies, and a completion crawler with rear steer. Our trail selection included Washout, Minefield, Frame Twister, and Bone, all 9-rated trails. Although large, the group steadily moved through the first three trails. Rigs and drivers were again well matched for the challenging conditions. A few folks were disappointed when Frame Twister was cut short, but it turns out that was for the best.



Although there was one flop on a ledge, the group moved relatively quickly through Bone until the last obstacle. The last obstacle consists of a center notch and large ledge on the right. The base and top of the ledge has loose dirt that challenges ones tires to find traction. Most drivers were intent on completing it without pulling winch line and took multiple tries. Only a few drivers found the perfect line and completed the obstacle without winch aid. Although we have found the line in the past, after a few good attempts, we couldn't find it today and pulled the winch cable. The drivers of the rock bouncer like rigs provided great drama with full throttle assaults; bouncing, hopping, and careening until they got there rigs up.

There was some carnage: one rig broke its rear ring/pinion gear. Another rig's driverside brake caliper broke away from its mount. The drive to the main road was long and dusty. All rigs got out under their own power and everyone made it back to their campsites before dark. That evening at the Riverside group shelter was the New Mexico Off-highway Vehicle Alliance ice cream social. After dinner, we barely made it in time before the ice cream was gone. There were also flex ramp and blindfolded slow race completions happening around the group site.



Friday morning dawned cool with bright sun. We met up with seven other rigs to run Godzilla, a new trail in the Caballo area and one that we had not done before. Our trail leader was Ernie Armijo and tail gunner was Jacob Benavidez (Ugly Ears Offroad). Both being from Las Cruces are long time Caballo/Elephant Butte/Las Cruces area rock crawlers. There was a mix of rigs including modified Jeeps (mostly JKs), buggies, and a Toyota truggy. Godzilla has a variety of ledges, boulders, and notches. The optional gatekeeper waterfall, rated 9, is off-camber with a large hole to one side of the bottom that will put your rig on its lid if your tires are not placed correctly. Ernie made it up with a rather spectacular front passenger wheel lift. Ernie spotted the next rig up the waterfall without much drama. Next was our turn. We got positioned and started up with Ernie providing expert spotting. But we were a little off the line and lifted the front passenger wheel on the top ridge. That got the pulse going! Before things got out of hand, we repositioned a little closer to the abyss on the driver side, which allowed us to climb the ridge without lifting a wheel. What a thrill! The other drivers took a challenging route to the side of the waterfall.



Today's group moved slower than previous days due to rigs and driver experience not being as well matched for an 8-rated trail. Next was an optional v-notch which tested a rig's suspension flex. A few drivers including us took on the challenging v-notch. The assemblage of rigs continued over boulders and ledges until reaching an optional wash with a wide v-notch. We took a line into the v-notch that looked as if it would work. But no, as soon as our rig started to climb into the notch, the front driver side wheel fell off the rock and in slow motion the buggy took a

nap. Ernie was quickly on scene and with the help of a couple of folks easily pushed Rocinante back onto its wheels while backing out. We repositioned and with Ernie spotting we worked on getting up the left side. While trying the new line, a loose boulder rolled under the driver side front which

momentarily pinned us. After reassessing the ledge, carefully placing the wheels, and shrewd application of horse power, Rocinante, with the loud voice of well-tuned V-8, launched up the ledge. We provide the group with a great photo-op. Unfortunately, with both of us in the buggy, we didn't get any pictures.

Since there was still time, the group then headed over to Brandon's Boulders. This time Cathy drove the buggy. I'm not sure my guidance from the passenger seat helped much, as we got briefly hung up a few times. Regrettably, the group continued to move slowly, and the afternoon was getting long. When we reached the two-track between the two parts of the trail, most folks including us headed back to camp. We didn't want to be late for the BBQ and potluck that evening at Riverside group shelter.

After getting the trail dust off, Cathy and I went down to the BBQ. We met up with Bill Bonahoom, who had brought his two buggies in the hopes of selling one or both and enjoyed great food and a live band playing a variety of music. Bill had positioned both rock crawlers next to the shelter with one rig's tire on top of the other rig's tire. The display got lots of attention particularly from kids! Alas, it didn't generate a sale since Bill still had both rigs come Sunday.

We didn't wheel Saturday as we took Rocinante home. But Cathy and I returned to our campsite to enjoy one more night. We became concerned when Helen and Joe hadn't returned from their trail run. As the sun was setting, they arrived at their camp. Their trail leader had taken a wrong turn and when they stopped at the group shelter, they discovered a split in the sidewall of one of their truck's tires.

On Sunday, Cathy and I packed up our camper and said goodbye to Joe and Helen as they prepared for their long trek back to their home in Texas. Our carnage for the trip was a broken rock light from when the boulder rolled under the rig and a flat tire on our camper near Lemitar.

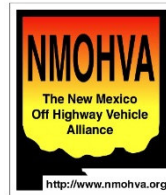
Chile Challenge this year was like getting reacquainted with an old friend. We made some new friends, reconnected with old ones, shared past adventures, and created new memories.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

NM4W Officers

<p>President Jack Dickey pres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Membership Chairman Jeff Boggs vpres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Sherley Godfrey sec@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Rich Steele treas@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Cathy Dickey prog@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank Whiston hist@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Cliff Meier trips@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Vacant envdir@nm4w.org</p>	

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, webadmin@nm4w.org
 Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org





Trail Tales



December 1, 2023

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org



Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2023

By Shirley Godfrey

The meeting was held at North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

President Jack Dickey called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Jack presented the first time leader medallion to Jeff Grenier.

GUESTS:

Nico Chavez, Lynn Hogan, Matthew Houlne, Kristofer Spinks, Alisha Trujillo, Steve Urist, Andrea Webb, Ben Webb

Members Attending: Jeff Boggs, Glenn Boudreaux, Bob Brazell, Guy Conway, Cathy Dickey, Jack Dickey, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, David Mccollum, Patricia Mccollum, Jennifer Myers, Myron Myers, John Nolen, Jack Nutter, Scott Potter, Christine Robson, Steve Robson, NaDeen Roland, Don Roy, Richard Steele, Mary Turpin, Frank Whiston, William Zobel

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs - , VP, sheriff and membership.

Explained point system for membership to the applicants. There are several applicants since the last meeting – Steve Urist, Lynn Hogan, Kristofer Spinks.

People ready for membership

Mary Turpin – voted in

Glen Boudreaux – voted in

Sheriff's collection of fines explained – You can self-report or rat someone out. No fines this month.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Shirley Godfrey

Meeting minutes were accepted. One correction, the SOP's were not posted to the web site.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Richard Steele

Checking account – \$8,231.78 Savings - \$8,660.71

Jack Dickey has a reimbursement for materials for the kiosk at Gordy's. Approximately less than \$400.00 has been spend. Report accepted.

TRIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Jeff Boggs filling in for Cliff Meier

Past Events:

Jack Dickey attended Chili Challenge. Easy cruising and rock crawling. Great trail leaders. Day 1, 6 rigs. Day 2 16 rigs. Day 3, 8 rigs. Approximately 200 registered for Chili Challenge. There were evening and fun events.

Oct 15th, Rich Steele – 2 vehicles to Gordy's. Great weather. The terrain changed because of the rains.

Upcoming Events: (Details for all upcoming events can be found on the website.)

Nov. 11, BLM land – Gallina/Mesa Lucero Ride – Jeff Boggs

Nov. 12, Enchanted Hills Trail Ride – David Ham

Nov. 18, Jeff Grenier – Cajada Del Rio Loop

Dec. 2, Christmas Tree/Snow Ride, BLM north of Cuba – Jack Nutter

Dec. 3, Marines Toys for Tots in Rio Rancho

Dec. 9, Meeting and Christmas Party at the home of Diego Serna. **3:00 PM**

May 6, Guy Conway – Green River 2024, Just spent two weeks checking out new runs. KOA spaces have been set aside our group. Call the KOA directly and tell them you're wit the Conway group.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT -

BLM has closed over 300 route miles in Moab. Blue Ribbon Coalition is filing a law suit.

PROGRAM CHAIR'S REPORT – Cathy Dickey - available – T-shirts, stickers, and license plates. There are no caps. Cathy requested \$850 to replace items. Motion passed.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Frank Whiston – please upload pictures to the web site.

WEBMASTER'S REPORT - Don Roy. Nothing to report.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S REPORT – Don Roy. Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jemez District. There are motorized trails that have closed roads that need access to the open roads.

Gordy's Hill kiosk – Rich Steele and Jack Dickey met with BLM. Drainage and grading will be done by BLM so the kiosk can be built. More information in the newsletter. There will be 3 panels – 1. Trail Lightly; 2. Maps (needs trail names and to be more user friendly; 3. Geological features. The club name will be on the kiosk.

Socorro BLM will be given money for fiscal year 2025. NM4Wheelers can help, make suggestions to spend the money.

SOP's will be placed on the web site for all to see and then in January vote on approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

December 9th Christmas party. Information is on the web site. Motion passed for \$500.00 in meat to be purchased for the party.

Donation made to Blue Ribbon Coalition's legal fund in the name or Frank Whiston Sr.

Suggestion for magnetic name tags for club meetings and trail rides.

50/50 raffle. Collected \$55.00. Jeff Boggs won \$27.50.

Christmas party gift exchanged was explained. Participation in gift exchange is voluntary.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:56 p.m.



President's Report

By Jack Dickey

TRANQUILITY

What a difference a month makes in the weather. Last month's weather was gorgeous for being outside and the days are much shorter. Even though the calendar doesn't say so, it seems that winter has arrived. Now it's time to think about backcountry trips to the mountains to enjoy Winter's beauty. This time of year, means many different things to all of us. Here is a poem I like to share:

*It's all how you listen:
We may rarely rejoice
At the cold winter wind,
Yet there's joy in its voice.*

*It's all how you listen:
Harsh noise of wild geese
Is too, a song of joy,
Harmony, and peace.*

*There's chill in snow and ice-
Even sound seems to glisten...
But the holidays sound warm:
It's all how you listen.*

Author unknown

As we head out for winter trips whether to find tranquility or visit friends and family, remember to be prepared for challenging conditions and Tread Lightly! on the winter wonderland.



Merry Christmas!

Jack Dickey



Vice President's Soap Box

By Jeff Boggs

The New Mexico 4Wheelers club has had a good 2023. We have got our 4x4's out on the trails and explored many remote areas in New Mexico and other nearby states.

We have had new "wheelers" join the club.

2024 is shaping up as another busy year for getting out of town and exploring the backcountry in our 4x4's. Join in the fun. Sign up for as many rides as you can. Make time to get out and see all the wonderful public lands that are open for us to explore and enjoy.

Get involved in club activities. We look forward to seeing you all, out on the trail.



Director of Environmental Affairs

**This officer position is currently open,
contact any officer to volunteer.**

Gordy's Update – by Jack Dickey

I am happy to report that progress is being made on the Quebradas Back County Byway ridge top parking/staging area and information kiosk!

Early in November, Rich Steele and I dropped off kiosk materials and visited with Denny Apachito at Socorro BLM. Denny was pleased with the fabrication and assured us that NM4W would continue to be involved in the kiosk construction.

Just before Thanksgiving, I learned that BLM started staging/parking area earthing moving and grading. There was a surprise during the earthwork: a historic fire pit was unearthed about 1½ feet down. BLM Archaeologist and NM State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) were contacted. SHPO asked that the site be monitored with each earth moving pass and to contact them if artifacts are found. Hopefully, grading work was able to continue.

Tread Lightly! is still willing to provide kiosk panels, but asked that they receive panel information before then end of the year. NM Department of Game and Fish, who provided Tread Lightly! with funding, would like to have it spent by then. In order to keep the project going, Denny Apachito give permission for us to move forward with fabricating and printing the Tread Lightly! and geology guide interpretive panels. Although, we don't have a final draft of the trail map, Tread Lightly! is going to have that panel fabricated. NM Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources a Division of NM Tech has given permission for us to use the geology stop map printed in the Geologic Guide to the Quebradas Back County Byway. The plan is to include a QR code on the map, so that folks can download the guide onto their phone. The ridgetop parking/staging area has good 5G cellular signal.

Last month, I misinterpreted information that Denny Apachito provided and was pessimistic about our future involvement. But, with progress being made, it appears that NM4W will continue to have a strong involvement with the information kiosk. As always, stay tuned!



Gallina Mesa Veteran's Day Ride Nov 11, 2023

By Jeff Boggs

Gallina Mesa, Veteran's Day Ride, 11-11-2023

15 4x4's showed up at The 66 Pit Stop Gas Station, on a cloudy, cool day. We gassed up and took off, west on I-40, to Hwy 6.

We aired down at an abandoned gas station, on Hwy 6. This is where we would air back up, later in the day.

We drove south on Hwy 169, the Alamo Hwy. After about 10 miles of dirt road, we met Dan Ross, where the pavement starts. Dan had driven up from Magdalena, NM.

Off onto BLM dirt roads, to explore all around the Gallina Mesa and Lucero Mesa areas.

Cows were everywhere, out on the flat portions of this area. Soon, we climbed into the hills on rough two tracks. Reaching an intersection, we decided to try an exploratory route. This took us to a large stock pond and continuing north, we explored a loop, where we drove back on an abandoned rough road. I named it Veteran's Loop, in honor of the day.

After coming back to the stock pond, we drove in and out of a couple of hills and canyons. We got to lunch and enjoyed the great view of the Rio Grande valley, way off to the East.

Rob noticed his power steering was not working well. He found a seal had let loose and he decided to head on home. We heard from him later, that he made it home. Good news!!

After lunch, we went south around the south end of Gallina Mesa. Rugged two track with many volcanic rocks.

About 2:30 pm, we retraced our route back out.

Chris Sears dropped his right rear wheel into a deep washout. Ed gave him a pull with a strap. The West setting Sun was in our eyes, so the road was hard to see.

Back to the highway, we said good bye to Dan and we went back to I-40. Aired up and most of us stopped by Laguna Burger, which is in the 66 Pit Stop Gas Station.

Wow, did those burgers taste great. We all had a great day.

Pictures on the website under Gallery.

Thanks to Bill Zobel and his good friend Vic for being tail gunner and closing all the gates.

Jeff Boggs, Trail Leader

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

NM4W Officers

<p>President Jack Dickey pres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Vice-President Membership Chairman Jeff Boggs vpres@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Secretary Sherley Godfrey sec@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Treasurer Rich Steele treas@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Program Chairman Cathy Dickey prog@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Historian Frank Whiston hist@nm4w.org</p>
<p>Trip Chairman Cliff Meier trips@nm4w.org</p>	<p>Environmental Affairs Vacant envdir@nm4w.org</p>	

Web Site Administrator Don Roy, webadmin@nm4w.org
 Newsletter editor, Don Roy, editor@nm4w.org

