



# Trail Tales



February 1, 2024

Official Newsletter  
of the  
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

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



## Meeting Minutes January 11, 2024 By Jack Diskey for Shirley Godfrey

The meeting was held at North Domingo Baca Multi-Generational Center, 7521 Carmel Avenue NE, Albuquerque, NM 87113. Meeting hosted by Jeff Boggs who provided cookies and water for refreshment.

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

**Members Attending:** Jeff Boggs, Jack Dickey, Cathy Dickey, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, Ric Henry, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, Myron Myers, Jennifer Myers, Jack Nutter, Scott Potter, Christine Robson, Steve Robson, William Zobel

**Guests Attending:** Patrick Dobson and his wife, first time attending an event.

### VICE PRESIDENT’S MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Jeff Boggs

Applicants since last meeting included: David Curry, Corrales; Eric Olsen, Mountainair; Andrew Payne, California; Kent Wells, Rio Rancho

There were no new memberships voted on by the members present.

There was one transgression fine levied – Myron Myers. Myron rolled his jeep on a large rock obstacle while attending the Rio Rancho to Route 66 trip on December 27. Luckily, no one got hurt and recovering his jeep was uneventful. The jeep was able to be driven home.

**SECRETARY’S REPORT – Jack Dickey for Shirley Godfrey:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the December meeting minutes as published in the January newsletter. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion.

### TREASURER’S REPORT – Jack Dickey for Richard Steele

Checking account – \$6,367.03      Savings account – \$8,665.78

A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurers report. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion.

### TRIP REPORT – Cliff Meier

#### Past Trips

- December 27 – Rio Rancho to the Route 66 Pit Stop, Laguna Burger anyone?, Jeff Grenier

#### Upcoming Trips

- January 13 – Gordy's Hill Winter Exploratory Ride 2024, Jeff Boggs
- January 20 – Copper Mine Trail Exploratory, Jeff Grenier

- January 27 – Ladron Peak Exploratory – Jeff Boggs

Cliff indicated that the Green River trip is limited to 15 vehicles. Cliff also reminded folks to check the USFS MVUM for road/trail status when planning trips on USFS managed lands. Trip leaders were reminded to update the webpage and email participants ahead of time if a trip is canceled or changed.

DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT – (Currently Vacant): Jack Dickey gave an update on the Gordy's/Ridgetop staging area and information kiosk. BLM started earthwork, but stopped when a remnant fire pit was unearthed. Work is able continue with monitoring for anything of archaeological significance.

PROGRAM REPORT – Cathy Dickey: There are new shirts and hats available in the store. There was discussion about member use of the club's digital artwork. Cathy reported that the board of directors decided that artwork will remain under control of the program chair and not disseminated to members. The club store will be the source for selling NM4W branded merchandise. It was reiterated that per the SOP, "No officer or club member may receive compensation for services (s)he may render to the corporation while performing his/her duties, nor in any way receive financial gain from membership in the corporation." Also, members were reminded to check NM4W Articles for "Policy on the Use of New Mexico 4-Wheelers Name and Insignias" for events and promotions.

HISTORIAN'S REPORT – Jack Dickey for Frank Whiston: Jack reminded trip leaders to submit trip reports and for members to take pictures and contribute to the newsletter.

#### OLD BUSINESS

NM4W SOP update: Jack Dickey briefly reviewed SOP changes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated SOP. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Bill Zobel volunteered to take the Director of Environmental Affairs position. Jack Dickey previously discussed the position with Bill and provided him with a brief job aid. A motion was made and seconded to approve Bill Zobel as Director of Environmental Affairs. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion.

Club Picnic is June 15<sup>th</sup>. Cliff Meier reserved a picnic site at Oak Flats Picnic Grounds. Need a host to coordinate the picnic. Also, May, July, August and September meetings are held at member's homes. We will need hosts for these meetings.

Officer elections are this July. Cliff Meier indicated he will retire from any club positions.

In light of the rollover on the December 27 trip, there was discussion about equipment, first aid kits, and training. Members were reminded that the SOP has a recommended list of safety equipment that everyone should carry in their vehicles. NM4W will neither specify what size or type of first aid kit, nor what training for members. We are all responsible to take care of ourselves and each other while on a ride. It was suggested that a Trail Leader Duties document be developed to help trail leaders.

50/50 Raffle – Crissy Robson won \$12.50.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion was approved by a majority of members present without discussion. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.



# President's Report

By Jack Dickey

## *Volunteers*

Last month I noted that each and every one participating in our activities are what make NM4W great. NM4W is different from other off highway recreation groups in that we are a non-profit corporation, have elected officers, and conduct in-person meetings. Our members are from many backgrounds and enjoy driving a variety of 4-wheel drive vehicles. Volunteer officers and appointed staff tirelessly work to keep our group's 66 year legacy ongoing. When you join a trip, please be sure to thank the trip leader for thinking up places to go, researching roads and trails, and volunteering their time to pilot the group through amazing landscapes and trails. Their motives may not be completely altruistic: they go where they want, there is no dust in front, and views are always different!

Officer elections will be held at the July meeting. Our SOP, located in the organization section of our on-line documents, has descriptions of each elected and non-officer (staff) position. Each officer and staff take pride in their accomplishments for the club. Elections will be here quickly. The existing offices are grateful for the enthusiasm and positive energy a new officer or staffer bring! Also, consider being a trip leader and share your favorite landscapes, roads, and trails.

In January, Bill Zobel volunteered and the membership approved him as our Director of Environmental Affairs. While this position is not fully involved in day-to day operations of the club, it is very important to keep members informed of land management agency actions locally and regionally that effect the club's ability to conduct four-wheel drive activities on public lands. This position had been vacant for a couple of years. The officers did their best to stay up-to-date with environmental affairs of concern to the club. Please be sure to thank Bill for taking on this valuable position.

Also in January, Socorro BLM let us know that the earthwork/grading for the Quebradas hilltop parking/staging area had been completed. Earlier, there was some concern when an old fire pit was unearthed. Luckily, after review by the BLM archaeologist and State Historic Preservation Office and careful monitoring during continued earthmoving, nothing of significance was revealed. The information kiosk team (NM4W, Tread Lightly!, and Socorro BLM) promptly worked on designing graphics for the three panels and are close to having final designs. The panels will consist of Tread Lightly! messaging specific for OHV activities at Johnson (Gordy's) Hill, a trail map with approved designations, and a geologic guide map for the Quebradas Back County Byway including Tread Lightly! messages for the byway. The geologic guide map is courtesy of Peter A. Scholle, New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources a division of New Mexico Tech. Tread Lightly! will produce the panels. In the next month or so when the panels are shipped, BLM and NM4W will construct the kiosk. Watch the club webpage for a work day announcement. It will likely be on a Friday. Please thank Frank Whiston and Rich Steele for volunteering their time and energy to make this project a reality.

Happy Volunteering,

*Jack Dickey*



## Director of Environmental Affairs

**A Big Thank You(!) to William Zobel  
for taking on this officer position**



**SURVEY  
SAYS**

## Facebook Survey Just for Fun By Frank Whiston

As part of my Historian Duties, I run the club's [Facebook page](#). Just for fun and since the newsletter editor sent a reminder for content, I thought that I'd run a quick survey for a day on the Facebook Page.

When is the ideal time for a day run to be over?

Right after lunch 2% >

Mid afternoon with enough time to be home for dinner 68% >

Hitting the pavement as the sun goes down 26% >

As long as I'm home for the 10 PM newscast 4% >

At the time of writing this article, we received 62 votes. There's nothing scientific about this and assumes whatever was in the minds of the respondents at the time. I fully understand that the sun goes down much earlier right now than it does in the middle of the summer and the survey results could differ greatly given the time of year. This also does not consider varying pavement travel distances to get to the trail. Again, it's just for fun. I'll leave it up in case you want to visit the [post](#) to see how the numbers might change if more people vote over time.





## Gordy's Ride – Jan 13

By Jeff Boggs

There were 19 4x4's that met up at the Truck Stop, Exit 156, I-25. It was cold in morning but nice in afternoon. We explored two track roads off of Quebradas Backcountry Byway. The southern areas. We followed several primitive dirt roads and drove into some dry washes an up and down on mesas. We had lunch in a nice canyon.

In the afternoon, we followed several more dirt roads in canyons and on ridges. We finished up the day at the Owl Cafe in San Antonio, NM. Yummy. More areas to explore down there, next time. Everyone had fun, and that's what it's all about.



## Ladron Peak – Jan 27

By Jeff Boggs

13 4x4's met at Kiva RV and Horse Park on I-25 at 8:30 am. A nice day weather wise, and recent moisture kept the dust down on CR 12. After airing down we drove around the north end of Ladron Peak and made it to "The Fork in the Road", in Riley, NM. I decided to do our normal route near Riley, but do it backwards for something new.

This made it a new trail to do . We played on some rocks in the arroyo, practiced some spotting and everyone had some good picture opportunities. We left the arroyo and drove south to Fall Spring for lunch. Most folks walked down to the waterfall. Not much water flowing , but beautiful box canyon.

We finished lunch and set off to drive further south on the rugged two track road to check out Baca Spring.

WHAT? Jack Nutter dropped his Jeep driver side tires into a deep washout that was close to the climb up the road. Everybody out!! and let's figure out how to get his Jeep back onto solid ground. Lots of ideas were discussed. Eventually, we hooked Jack's winch to Jeff Boggs's Lexus for an anchor forward of his stuck Jeep. From behind, we hooked up the winch from Jeff Grenier's Jeep to Jack's Jeep. I think we used a soft shackle around his passenger roll cage. Note to self: Get a few soft shackles. Via a snatch block attached to a nearby Juniper tree. These make good strong anchors,

since they have deep root systems.

By working the two winches together we slowly raised the Jeep up, more level to the road. Then,



using Jack's winch, he slowly moved forward onto the road... Hurray!! safe and sound and no damage!!

Off we went towards Baca Spring, until we got to a Private Property sign. Turned around and went back to the old house ruins, where we usually stop at. Got some pics and started to leave, when Rich said, "Hold on, we have a problem".

Cliff Meier has a rear bumper that is falling off!! WHAT??

The rear bumper was coming unattached from the frame of his Jeep. We removed the gas can carrier, rear tire and added a ratchet strap to make the bumper more secure for the trip home. Denis had room in his Colorado truck for the spare tire. Thanks.

Time to get out of the area. We dropped into the last arroyo and did a few rock ledges, talked with some local ranchers out riding around in their side by side. Nice folks.

We skipped a drive to the Riley townsite and drove back down CR 12 to I-25. Already dark. We aired up and everyone headed home. Thanks to all, and there's no extra charge for a winch recovery class and rear bumper trail fix training.

Jeff Boggs, trial leader



# Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

## NM4W Officers

<p><b>President</b> Jack Dickey <a href="mailto:pres@nm4w.org">pres@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Vice-President</b> <b>Membership Chairman</b> Jeff Boggs <a href="mailto:vpres@nm4w.org">vpres@nm4w.org</a></p>	<p><b>Secretary</b> Sherley Godfrey <a href="mailto:sec@nm4w.org">sec@nm4w.org</a></p>
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