



Trail Tales



March 1, 2024

Official Newsletter
of the
New Mexico 4-Wheelers

www.nm4w.org



Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2024
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 6:37 p.m.

Members Attending: Cathy Arlowe, Jeff Boggs, Guy Conway, Cathy Dickey, Jack Dickey, Marcia Duggar, Shirley Godfrey, Jeff Grenier, Kay Grenier, Ed Kausche, Lyn Kausche, Cliff Meier, Jeanne Meier, John Nolen, Jack Nutter, Lauri Rector, Jonathan Rivera, Don Roy, Richard Steele, Jon Trepanier, Mary Turpin, Ben Webb, Frank Whiston, William Zobel

GUESTS: Patrick Dobson, Russ Hall, Lynn Hall, Darren Sandow

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

Jeff appreciates those who have stepped up and helped to take over some of his rides.

Guests were introduced and told a little about themselves and what they drive.

Jeff explained the point system for membership to the applicants.

Sheriff’s fines explained – You can self-report or rat someone out. This month’s fines –

Jack Nutter had to be pulled out of a ditch (pictures on the web site).

Cliff Meier had his rear bumper “fall off” and it was transported home in a truck.

SECRETARY’S REPORT – Shirley Godfrey

Meeting minutes were accepted.

TREASURER’S REPORT - Richard Steele

Checking account – \$6,249.03 Savings - \$8668.36 PayPal - \$247.63c

Blue Ribbon Coalition donation - \$125.00

The Post Office box has an automatic draw coming up. Report accepted.

TRIP CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – Cliff Meier

Past Events:

There were 2 runs in January. On one ride they met up with a couple of ranchers who were working the area.

Upcoming rides in February – 10th, 17th, and the 29th. The Great American Crawl – Caballo Mountains three days of adventure.

Be sure to check the web site. There are a lot more runs listed and new runs being added.

**We have a new Environmental Affairs Director – Bill Zobel!
DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPORT -**

There will be a cleanup at Fenton Lake. More information forthcoming. 13/14 Forest Roads are closed until May 1st. Chloride Canyon is closed for 20 days.

PROGRAM CHAIR’S REPORT – Cathy Dickey - \$270.00 in sales handed to the Treasurer. Cathy is looking into using a card reader and not have to carry money.

HISTORIAN’S REPORT – Frank Whiston – Thanked everyone who has uploaded pictures to the web site.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Gordy’s Hill kiosk – BLM has finished grading and getting closer to installing the Kiosk. Thread Lightly is working on the three panels. They will paint the panels and ship them to Socorro BLM.

Thank you Cliff and Jeanne Meier for signing up to host the picnic meeting in June at Oak Flats Picnic Area.

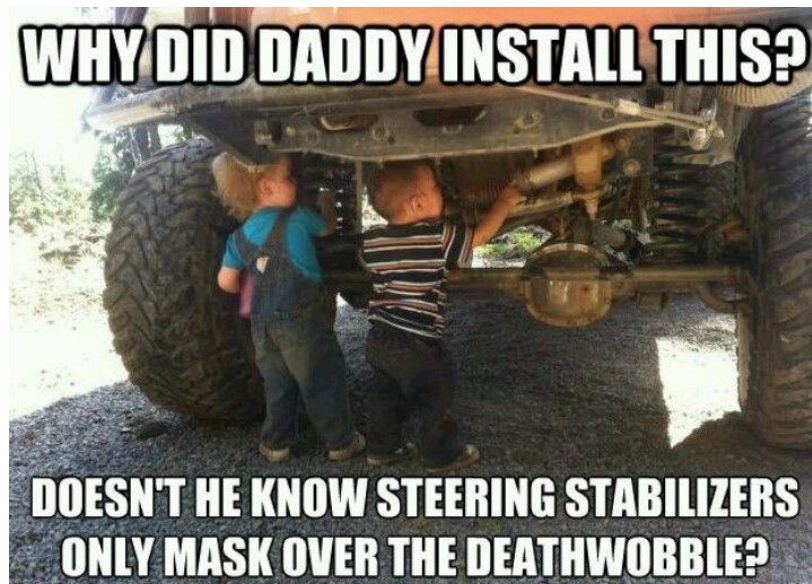
NEW BUSINESS:

Trail leading. Jack Dickey suggested creating a trip leader’s guide and check list Jack Dickey, Richard Steele, Frank Whiston, Cliff Meier and Bill Zobel will be on the committee to create the trip leader’s guide and check list.

Cliff Meier – Moab area trying to close down trails. Perhaps donate money for the cause.

Ed Kausche won the 50/50 raffle.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:48 p.m.





President's Report

By Jack Dickey

Adventure

With winds blowing strong and being outside not the most pleasant, the mind wanders and ideas of some fun doings begin. What shall it be? Writing a creative story, starting a new hobby like radio controlled offroad model cars, building kitchen cabinets and remodeling the kitchen, or dreaming up an offroad jaunt. Going wheeling generally lands at the top of the list. At younger times 4-wheeling was usually for a purpose: getting to a trailhead to climb a 14er, traveling a rough road to camp a remote lake, or going out in a snow storm for a search and rescue mission with the local team. The rig was usually factory stock, maybe with all terrain tires the next size up.

As time passed the trips became more about the journey and not a specific destination. The rig also changed to meet the challenge. Instead of slightly enhanced factory truck, the rig was either a highly modified Blazer or a purpose build rock crawler buggy. There were trips to Great Sand Dunes National Monument and Blanca Peak to enjoy the sand, water, and tough road at the sand dunes and going up the steep, rocky, mountainside trail with obstacles that mostly denied passage to stock vehicles. There have been many trips to 4-wheel drive events such as Moab for Blazer Bash, Colorado for All-4-Fun and Rock Junction, Sand Hollow for Winter 4x4 Jamboree. While the journey to these locations was sometimes a butt-burner, it was each day's wheeling trip that made it all worthwhile. Multi-day trips with NM4W have been special times. Traveling unpredictable remote roads, finding gratifying overlooks, and camping with folks who all share the same goals for being outdoors make for a memorable adventure!

Not only is being on an adventure satisfying, but imagining a trip is fulfilling. The excitement builds while thinking about what road or rock crawling trail to take, studying the route, and reading or watching videos about conditions or obstacles. The anticipation heightens when putting together a group of friends to share the experience with and deciding where to stay or camp. As the departure day nears, exhilaration grows when checking the weather, nut-and-bolting the rig, and packing gear.

Remember to enjoy an imaginary adventure before heading out for an actual trip. Let the adventure unfold and cherish what comes about before and during the journey.

Happy Trails,

Jack Dickey



Traveling into the Backcountry

By Jeff Boggs

We all have 4x4 vehicles and if you are a member of NM4W, you know that to travel into the remote, backcountry areas of the Southwest, 4x4's are a great way to experience the outdoors. We should all learn what we should bring with us, how to use our equipment and educate each other on all the great equipment that is available to us.

Learn what your 4x4 rig is capable of doing. Newer 4x4's have many options to make backcountry exploring more user friendly.

Low range gears, winches, recovery equipment, first aid kits, and good off road tires are just a few things to think about.

A full tank of gas, water, food, warm clothes, a sleeping bag may be needed if we get stuck overnight in the backcountry. YES, it has happened!!

A good radio, tools, spare parts,

Cell phones are great, but you must have a good signal, and many places away from town, have no service.

Keeping your 4x4 in good working condition. Take care of it, and it will take care of you.

Find out what other members are carrying with them, what works well. I don't intend to make a detailed list here, but do some research, and come prepared.

Be Prepared! Isn't that a Motto of the Boy Scouts??

Happy Trails To You, Until We Meet Again!

Jeff Boggs, VP



Director of Environmental Affairs Gambler 500 Cleanup

By William Zobel

As I mentioned at the February meeting, the New Mexico Gambler 500 group is holding a cleanup event at Fenton Lake June 8-9, 2024. The Gambler 500 concept is to hold an off-road navigational challenge and trail cleanup.

The Gambler 500 originated in Oregon in 2014 as a challenge to see how far a vehicle costing \$500 could go. Fourteen cars participated that first year. In 2017 independent Gambler 500 events occurred in many areas. By 2018 about 4,000 people in 1,600 plus vehicles showed up to the event in Chemult, Oregon. Participants came from all across the U.S. and Canada to have fun and help clean up Oregon. They collected enough trail trash to fill three 40-foot containers.

Gambler 500 has continued to grow and promote the idea of having cheap fun and impractical vehicles exploring public lands while making it a better place for all. The Gambler name and logo can be used by others to hold small free events that use the original concept of off-road navigation and are not for profit.

I met Jonathan Osborne, a New Mexico Gambler 500 member and administrator of their Facebook site, last December. In addition to encouraging me to check their Facebook page, he indicated that the group may be willing to partner with others to clean up public lands. I know the June 8-9 Fenton Lake conflicts with our Jemez Camping Trip but you may want to check out the New Mexico Gambler 500 Facebook page. Also, if the club is interested in doing a cleanup event with the New Mexico Gambler 500 group, I would be willing to contact Jonathan. ABG – always be gambling.

Sons of Smokey

Sons of Smokey grew out of the Gambler 500. Their sole purpose is to identify and remove trash off of public lands in an effort to leave the land better than they found it. To date they have removed about three and one half million pounds of trash off public lands. Their fund raising goes to pay for the disposal of the trash. They now have the Sons of Smokey app that allows you to tag the location and description of trash that you cannot take with you (e.g., tires refrigerators, sofas, etc.) and or organize cleanup events to remove the trash found by others.

Keep PUBLIC lands open to the PUBLIC

NM4W Officers

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