

Gila Chapter

Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 5/8/2019 6:00 PM | Meeting location WNMU Watts Hall

Meeting called by Doug Dexter

Type of meeting Monthly business meeting

Note taker Cindi deCapiteau

Attendees

Joan Bacon, Cathy Brett, Cindi deCapiteau, Dixie Dexter, Doug Dexter, Vicki Dowd, Gerry Engel, Jean Hill, Dave Imler, Nancy Imler, Cheryl Klingbail, Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon, Maureen McLeod, Kristin Munson, Charlen Perez, Cheryl Roth, Randy Roth, Becky Shumway, George Siavelis, Laurie Tavonatti, Nat Williams, Melinda Wood, Randy Wood

AGENDA TOPICS

Agenda topic *Call to order* | Presenter Doug Dexter

In spite of the fact that the meeting room was short on tables, and that the tables present were oriented in the opposite of normal direction, the room rattled with chatter, energetic as tune-up music before a symphonic concert. Doug called the meeting to order at 6:00.

Agenda topic *Recognize guests and new members* | Presenter Doug Dexter

Doug welcomed returning new members Belinda and Randy Wood along with George Siavelis. Kris Munson moved here in 2017 from California and has been trying to get back here to join the Gila chapter. She has a Rocky Mountain Horse and a Welsh pony. Cheryl Kleingbail is moving to the Silver City area and is looking for land in Cliff. At the moment, she is renting hopes to meet horse people. Cheryl has four horses and uses them in penning and reining.

Agenda topic *Additions or changes to agenda* | Presenter Doug Dexter

There were no changes to the agenda.

Agenda topic *Approval of March minutes* | Presenter Doug Dexter

The minutes from the chapter's last meeting (in March 2019) were apparently so delightful that Becky Shumway moved to approve them as submitted. Randy Roth seconded the motion. March minutes were adopted without protest.

Agenda topic *Financial & membership report* | Presenter Nancy Imler

The Gila BCH chapter now has 68 members.

March and April produced big expenditures from the chapter's bank account, including state and national dues, as well as reimbursements to members who worked on trail projects for 2018-19. The reimbursements came from money provided by a grant through the Southwestern Region Resource Advisory Council (RAC). The RAC is a group made up of partners with diverse backgrounds and interests who are dedicated to providing valuable insight

into public lands management. For an overview about the purpose and activities of the various RACs around the nation, please see <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/04/30/2019-08723/national-call-for-nominations-for-resource-advisory-councils>

Agenda topic *Publicity* | Presenter *Becky Shumway*

Doug asked Becky if we can get the Gila chapter's name out to the public to publicize our support of the Southwest Horsemen's Association professional rodeo. Chapter members manage parking for each of the rodeo's four nights, thereby keeping the rodeo's grounds free from chaotic parking by rodeo attendees.

Agenda topic *Public Service/Communications* | Presenter *Gerry Engel*

The Gila chapter has cleared 39 miles of trails so far this season. The trails we have addressed are:

- Railroad Canyon
- From the trailhead on Forest Road 150 to Signboard Saddle.
- Woody's Corral to Little Turkey Park
- Three miles of Trail 181 (Sheridan Corral)
- Tadpole Ridge (about 8 miles)
- Continental Divide Trail from Jordan Hot Springs to The Meadows (4.6 miles). This project, put together by Melissa Green, involved 10 volunteer workers and two USFS staff people. Gerry Engel and Rawlings Lemon provided meals and also worked on trail clearing.
- The plans for the coming weeks are to work on trails east of Willow Creek with a group of retired smokejumpers, from Turkey Feather Spring through the Jerky Mountains. In addition, a pack trip is planned at the Mogollon Box, and in June, the McKnight Canyon trail.

See maps beginning on page 5.

Agenda topic *BCHNM Updates* | Presenter *Mickey Lemon, Rawlings Lemon*

Insurance: The Issue that Will Not Die. Mickey reported that (as always) much discussion focused on insurance at the recent meeting of the New Mexico state chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA). The state group decided that an assessment of \$6 a member should pay for directors and officers' insurance as well as liability protection. The proposal passed with dissent from the Gila and two other chapters. The bottom line? At this point, an additional 6 bucks a head for membership will be assessed the end of 2019. Our bill this year for state dues would therefore be about \$450. Then Dick Rahal (BCHNM Vice Chairman) will look for another insurance company. Current company is a bit strange.

Also of interest is the national board meeting held in early April. Two members from New Mexico attended and will report at the next state meeting in June. BCHA is pushing a concept called the legacy fund, which is a strategy to ensure that BCHA can continue to keep trails and public lands open in the future. The national organization is urging members to donate. If you donate \$1000 you get to be a special kind of member. The goal is to reach \$500K, invested, to endow the fund's goal, which has been extended to December 31. Donations of any amount are welcomed and are also tax deductible.

The 2019 Rendezvous will be hosted by BCHNM's Northwest chapter, assisted by the Three Rivers chapter. The event will be held at the Panchuela campground (22 miles north of Pecos on NM highway 63), July 25-28, 2019. A challenge for those who want to attend is the narrow road with sharp turns; big rigs have a problem getting in. Date is July 25-28. The organizers request a \$50 item from each chapter for an auction, as well as donations from individuals. Donations need to be received before the June state meeting and donations of all types are welcomed.

BCHNM will try to have a booth at state fair in September.

Joan Lattner (president of the Santa Fe chapter) has a deal for members interested in purchasing Resistol riding helmets. She will order them and ship them. If you want one, tell Mickey and she'll put you in touch with Joan.

Agenda topic *Update on 501c3 Status* | **Presenter** *Dave Imler*

Dave noted that the Gila chapter needs to have a board of directors meeting to talk about the 501c3 status.

Action items

Person responsible

Call a board meeting

Doug Dexter

Agenda topic *Helicopter emergency transport* | **Presenter** *Nat Williams*

Nat observed that the current provider of medevac services for the Gila region seems to have disappeared. Nat will look into it.

Action items

Person responsible

Investigate what's going on with medevac

Nat Williams

Agenda topic *CDT Days* | **Presenter** *Doug Dexter*

Several Gila chapter members turned out to staff the Gila chapter's booth at the April Trail Days festival in Gough Park. We conducted (with material support from the Forest Service) the usual crosscut saw demo and helped happy participants cut and brand 55 "cookies," which are slabs cut from the end of pine logs and branded with the logo for the Continental Divide Trail. Everybody had fun and aren't you sorry if you missed it?

The Gila chapter has been invited to participate in the upcoming Smoky Bear event at Ft. Bayard. The Forest Service will get back to us with details.

Agenda topic *Packing demo and picnic* | **Presenter** *Cheryl Roth*

Everybody present at tonight's meeting thinks it's a cool idea to have a picnic, but nobody seems to think a packing demo is necessary. The proposal is to hold the July chapter meeting at the Gomez Peak pavilion and to feast on potluck cuisine. The picnic will happen on July 9, a Tuesday, and yes, that date is correct. Becky Shumway will organize potluck for July picnic.

To satisfy our need to advertise the Gila BCH chapter and our exquisite fashion sense, we have discussed at previous meetings obtaining stylish apparel to wear in public. Cheryl looked around and found Wrangler-brand denim vests at a reasonable price. We know somebody who produces custom embroidery for \$10. We can also buy BCH logos and patches for \$5. Cheryl will get more info on prices, etc.

Is anybody going to the 2019 Rendezvous? Cheryl will probably go and can carry our donations when she goes. Mickey will see if venue change will occur (because the road to the campground is twisty and narrow). She will also get information on the maximum rig length suitable for the road in case the venue is not changed.

Action items

Person responsible

Find out if the Gomez Peak pavilion is available on July 9

Doug Dexter

Organize potluck for the picnic

Becky Shumway

Agenda topic *Suggestions for future education segments* | **Presenter** Cheryl Roth

Cheryl suggested that a useful ed segment would be to have a vet in to discuss accidents while hauling. What, why, how to deal with?

Cheryl Klingbail mentioned that she is a chiropractor who treats both humans and horses.

Agenda topic *Announcements* | **Presenter** [Name]

Next meeting: June 19. The meeting will be delayed a week because the 2nd Wednesday in June is the first night of the chapter's commitment to parking duty at the rodeo.

David and Meghan Albrecht in Deming have hay for sale. It is beardless wheat w/o seedheads at a price of \$100 for 3x3x8' bales and 2 string at 8 bucks a bale. The Albrechts are located between mile markers 148 and 149 on US 180. Horses really like and seem to do well on beardless wheat. Gerry noted that he is satisfied with their hay. Contact the Albrechts at 575-654-2210.

Cheryl and Randy Roth recently had experience shoeing one of their horses for the first time in its life. They worked with the horse for a couple of weeks by tapping on its feet with a farrier's hammer, followed by extensive treats, and applying duct tape to its nose. The strategy got the horse acclimated to the notion of being shod. And the duct tape? YouTube has videos about this. Apparently the tape-on-the-nose distracts horses or simply bewilders them so much that they let a farrier put the shoes on. It all worked for the Roth horse, who is now shod and ready for the trail.

Gerry reported that if you want a good ride, ride the Gila middle fork. Two or three miles past Jordan hot springs is clear and incredibly beautiful.

If you want to ride the trails around the Gila Cliff dwellings, you can do so from Woody's Corral. No reservations are required (or even possible) to camp there. If you don't need pens, there are several places to highline, and many hitch rails. Woody's has water troughs in the pens. There is also a spigot for potable water and the Gila River is nearby. The road to Woody's is twisty and steep, but is in good repair. The trail up the Gila west fork is also nice and can take you clear to Hells Hole. The trail has a few logs down, but you can get around them.

Vicki Dowd is planning the NAN Ranch competitive trail ride (CTR) for 2020. The organization behind the CTR (the North American Competitive Trail Ride Conference—NATRC—is rolling out a new competition division. The new division is geared for people who prefer a leisurely-but-still-judged ride of 8-12 miles. Such a ride might be a part of the 2020 CTR, using the trail along the Mimbres River to Donohue Canyon and back to base via a loop. NAN Ranch would charge only \$20 to ride on the property. The ride organizers would charge \$60 for the leisure division ride and would give awards. Vicki suggests talking up this kind of ride to reel in more local participation in the CTR. The new division could appeal to 4H members, cloud riders, rodeo people, older riders who no longer participate in CTRs because the traditional novice and open divisions are too strenuous. The new division ride will be in addition to the regular ride and will occur on Friday the same weekend. The entire CTR at NAN Ranch is covered by ride insurance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45

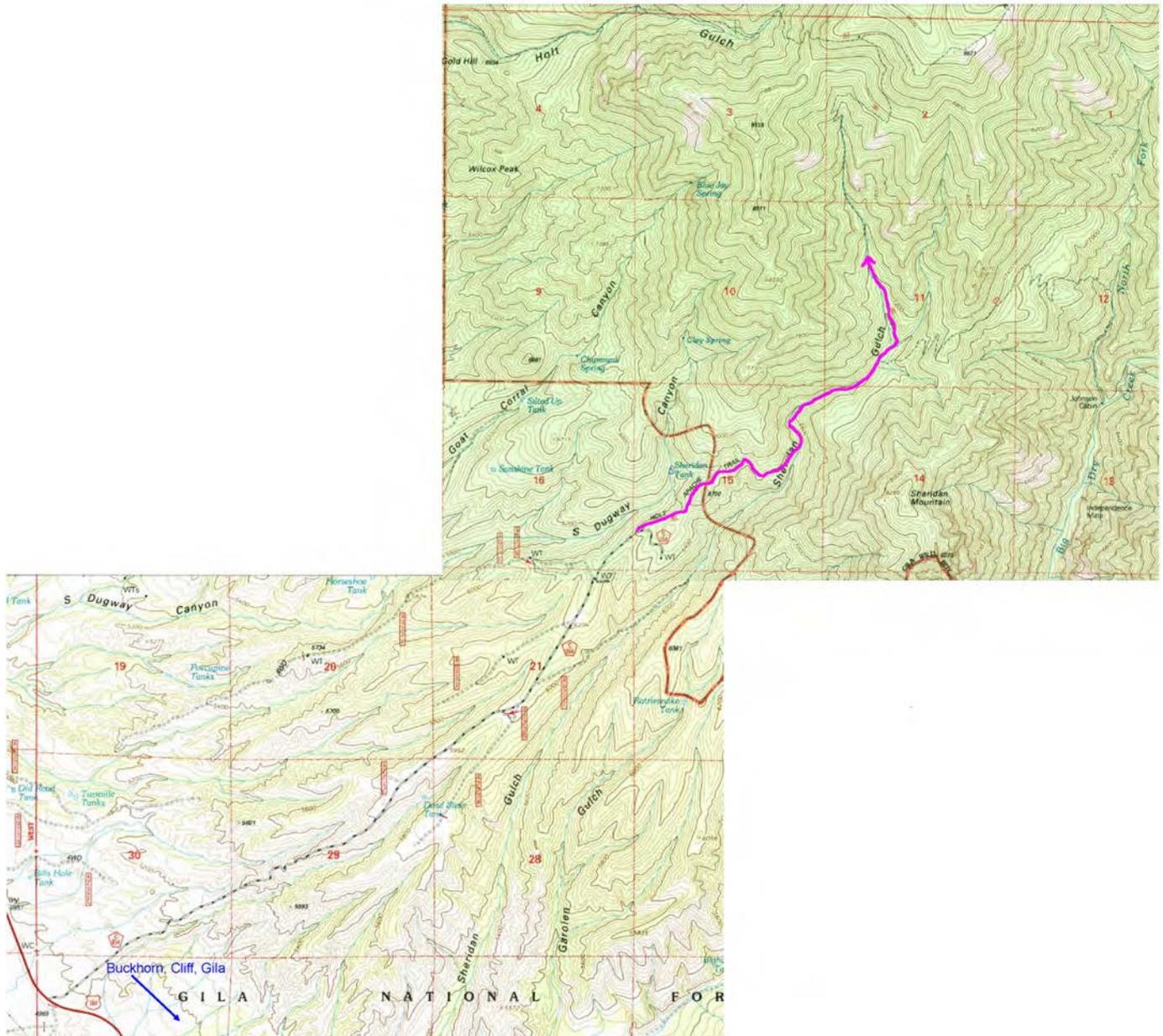
Signboard Saddle (from USGS 1999 Hay Mesa map)



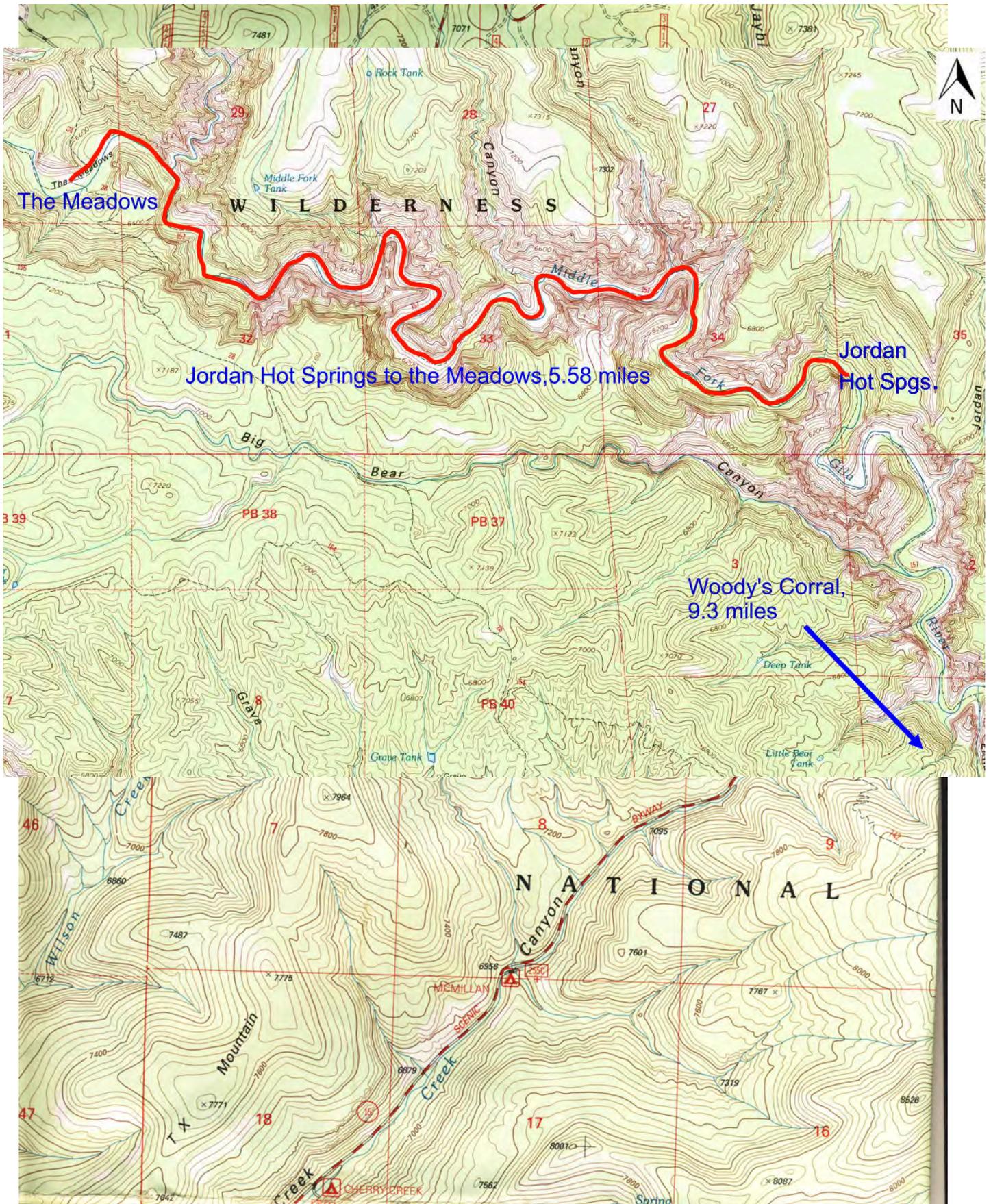
Woody's Corral to Little Turkey Park (from 1999 USGS Little Turkey Park map)



Trail #181, Holt-Apache, Sheridan Gulch (from 1999 USGS Moon Ranch & Holt Mountain maps)



Tadpole Ridge Trail (from USGS 1999 Twin Sisters map)



Jordan Hot Springs to The Meadows

