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The Inside Line
Newsletter of the New Mexico
Off Highway Vehicle Alliance

HAPPY TRAILS!

June 2008

NM 4-Wheelers Train Search and Rescue

NMOHVA member four wheel drive club, the New Mexico 4 Wheelers, hosted a training day for Cibola Search and Rescue. The object was to show the Search and Rescue people how to drive safely in difficult terrain. The 4 Wheelers instructed them in the proper use of winches and other equipment, proper driving techniques for steep and uneven terrain, how to cross terrain without getting stuck, and how to get 'unstuck' from deep sand. This 'hands on' training was attended by 25 people. TheNM4W has been conducting these trainings for many years.#

The National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council held their annual meeting in Albuquerque in March. The NOHVCC conference combines the latest information



with the opportunity for informal networking with other OHV activists from across the country. Whatever you're going through, someone else has been
Continued on Page 2

Gila Rough Riders Receive First Polaris "T.R.A.I.L.S." Grant in New Mexico !

The Gila Rough Riders in Silver City have received the first Polaris grant in the state. The \$10,000 grant will be used to fix erosion damage on roads in the Gila National Forest. The damage is not caused by OHV use, but by washouts from flooding. —Continued on Page Four

"LATE BREAKING NEWS: Rick Alcon elected Chairman of State of New Mexico Off Highway Motor Vehicle Safety Board.

This Board advises the Tourism Dept. on how our sticker fee money will be spent. Go to www.nmohva.org for the full story"#



NOHVCC Conference Gathers in Albuquerque

Continued from Front Page
 been there or is facing the same challenges. It's a real boost to your motivation to see how many great projects are being successfully implemented across the country, including safety training, trail building and maintenance and building club membership. You even get to do a little 'celebrity spotting'. Enduro hero Jeff Fredette is the new NOHVCC partner from Illinois.

The lunches were a frenzy of socializing and networking. I'd ask a question of someone across the table, and they'd point out someone across the room who had the answer. (Or more likely, they'd get up from their own lunch to go get them and bring them over.)

John Barksdale and I decided to 'swap seats' since he is so deeply involved in other projects. Now I am the **state partner** to NOHVCC and John is the **associate partner**. Every **state partner works** on a committee during the year, between conferences. I am on the committee for helping state organizations to grow and develop leadership.

All the presentations we enjoyed in the sessions are available as Powerpoints on the NOHVCC website at www.nohvcc.org. Look at the top of the page, where it says "New!"

There were so many useful and timely presentations, these titles are just a few of the ones available for you as Powerpoints:

- OHV Travel Planning; Lessons Learned Over 18 Years
- Sustainable Trails; Connecting People with Nature Responsibly
- Meeting the Challenge; Recreation on Public Lands
- Forest Service Travel Management Update
- Assistance Agreements; The way for Resource Agencies to truly partner with the public

At the Saturday night banquet we heard from Rob Dingman, the new President and CEO of the American Motorcyclist Association. Rob was very open and frank in describing some of the problems the AMA has had. Dingman came on board in '07. He is committed to making the AMA (and ATVA) into a 'membership' organization. The new AMA will be focused on rider services and government relations, rather than race promotion. AMA will still be a sanctioning body for amateur motorcycle and ATV racing.

Here's what the NOHVCC website has to say about Rick Alcon:

"One of the real heroes of the entire conference was Rick Alcon of Team R&S Powersports out of

Albuquerque. When Rick got word that a fleet of ATVs was stolen from the NOHVCC upon arrival in Albuquerque, he stepped up at the last minute and made sure that everyone had machines to ride on the Tuesday and Wednesday Pre-Conference Trail Rides. In addition, he oversaw the trail guide crew and lunch arrangements. Even before the Conference was held, his dealership was tabbed to receive the NOHVCC Dealership of the Year Award."

Vehicles stolen? Imagine you've driven from Great Falls, Montana to Albuquerque, towing a big truck and trailer. That night you pull into the Hilton parking lot . . . Imagine the feeling in your gut when you step outside the next morning, and the entire rig is gone. Just a big empty spot in the parking lot. Five ATVs belonging to NOHVCC and Honda of America, and two privately owned motorcycles, a crew cab diesel dually truck, and a 23 foot trailer (and bags of personal riding gear.) All GONE. Rick came through with over 40 loaner vehicles needed for the pre-conference trail rides. Thanks to John Barksdale for arranging for the bus company and the lunches for the 70 plus conference attendees who had a great time visiting the BLM riding areas and experiencing our way of riding!#

Sharing the SFNF with Wildlife Species

'Wildlife Species information for Santa Fe National Forest is now posted on NMOHVA website. 'Mexican Spotted Owl,' and 'Jemez Mountain Salamander' might be unfamiliar creatures to you, but the Forest Service may try to close roads and trails to us because of them. Will it really hurt them if we're on the roads and trails? Read about these animals and others. Then ask yourself if motorized recreation has anything to do with their survival. Go to www.nmohva.org and follow the links from the story on the front page.#



NMOHVA New Officers Take the Reins

Continued from Page Four
 Mark Werkmeister, new President

the Albuquerque 4WD club celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Mark is also an avid hiker and backpacker, and has climbed all but five of the 'Fourteener's', the 53 Colorado peaks over 14,000 feet high. He'll bag those last ones too. Mark is also a photo-journalist for 'Four Wheel Drive and Sport Utility', one of the country's leading 4WD publications. Mark has been writing travel and tech articles since 1987, and has over 125 articles published. See the current issue for his latest article, on the four hardest trails at the Chile Challenge in Las Cruces. Speaking of the Chile Challenge, here's a photo of Mark driving the 'Itch', climbing a ledge at last year's Chile Challenge. Mark built the 'Itch', starting from just a piece of frame. Mark has re-

Terry Rust, NMOHVA's new Secretary, works at Los Alamos National Labs. Terry has been active in the Sandia Jeep Club in Santa Fe. He is a member of the board for Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association as the the Individual Members Representative. He has previously been Director of Environmental Affairs for SWFWDA. Terry loves back-country exploring in New Mexico, Colorado and in Utah, in his Jeep Scrambler.'



The above photo of Terry in his Scrambler was taken on the historic Mormon 'Hole In The Rock' trail through the Utah sandstone desert near Lake Powell.

Mark Toney is stepping up to the plate as Recreation Resource Director, a job that is the heart of our land access pulse. Mark is a founder and president of the Gila Trail Riders Association, a dirtbiker club in Silver City. He was



cently been seen on two wheels, on his Yamaha WR450.

among the very first to get active in the Travel Management process with the Gila National Forest. Mark blazed the trail for all of us, in getting the Gila National Forest to follow the national guidelines to accept any type of GPS tracks, to provide maps of existing roads and trails, and post maps on the forest's website. When the Cibola and Santa Fe forests were reluctant to take Garmin GPS files, and to post our trail maps on their websites, our response was "How come you can't, since the Gila is doing it..". In the process of doing this, Mark read hundreds of pages of NEPA and forest service policy. The flash of orange along a single track in the Gila is Mark on his KTM 450.' Mark is also a leader in G.R.A.T.A., the Gila Roads and Trails Alliance. G.R.A.T.A. is an alliance of sportsmen, OHV'ers, local residents and business people, who are committed to keeping the roads and trails in the Gila National Forest open for all of us.#

Congratulations to our new officers and good luck!

Building a Partnership for the Future

New Mexico 4-Wheelers, Black Feathers Motorcycle Club and Sierra Riders ATV Club Volunteers partnered with Jemez Forest District of the Santa Fe National forest to repair some damage areas. The 16 volunteers from the individual groups repaired multiple locations along Los Griegos road in the Jemez Forest District. We spent the morning and part of the afternoon doing this work through use of common tools used by the forest service. The group is anxious to see how the work holds up through the strains that Mother Nature will put our repairs.

There is hope among us that we will have another opportunity to work on a project soon. There was a lot of hard work on this project but it was a blast work

but we all had fun and some laughs along the way.

This is very important step in the hopes of building multiple long-term partnerships through work of individuals from the OHV communities. The future of riding will be grown and maintained through these efforts. We all share the forest and other groups outside the OHV community have been doing successful volunteer activities for years.

Alex Ocheltree, owner of ATV Mountain Cycle in Silver City knows this very well. He is very much a supporter of trail maintenance and pursues it very whole heartily in Gila National Forest. Good job Alex and keep up that drive.



Our hats go off to our forest service recreation foreman Phyllis Martinez of the Jemez Ranger District. She instructed us on safety and repair techniques. We all were extremely impressed with Phyllis's knowledge, experience, passion and work ethic. She is good a reflection on the Forest Service.

So if you would like to get involved please contact board membership of NMOHVA and join us on another project to support riding and have some fun along the way.#

Have You Test Driven our Website?

Your NMOHVA BOD rolled out a completely redesigned website in January. Have you seen it? It still resides on the web at www.nmohva.org but offers an entirely new look and powerful new functionality. The website update was made possible by a generous grant from Kawasaki. The Board and membership made 'better communication' one of NMOHVA's top priorities at the 2007 Annual Meeting and the new web goes a long way in meeting that goal. Let's take a quick stroll through the website and some of the exciting features: A new database driven update capability gives us the ability to instantly update the 'News' and 'Access Issues'. The website can now be used by our members to get accurate, up-to-the minutes information on matters of importance to them. If there is something that should be in the 'News' or 'Access Issues' section drop us a line at contact@nmohva.org and tell us about it. The new 'Calendar' is also driven from a database and has the same instant

update features as those described above. If you have a club meeting, event, public meeting, etc. that you want the entire membership to know about, pass it on and we will get it listed immediately. We can now join NMOHVA or renew our membership electronically via PayPal on the website. You can also donate to NMOHVA via PayPal and we want to thank those of you who have already used this new feature! And finally, the new web site includes a NMOHVA Forum. The Forum includes topics focused on the various user groups (motorcycles, ATV's, 4WD's etc.), where to ride, a place to show off photos of your trail machines, even a classified section to buy and sell all that stuff in your garage! Check it out, it is a great way to meet the other members of NMOHVA, find additional people to ride with, and find out more about the great trails in NM. It not only looks great, it is a great tool for keeping communication flowing in NMOHVA #

Annual Meeting Elects New Officers and 2008 Focus

The New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance (NMOHVA) held their Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 12. After a welcome by President Chris Johnson and short reports by the treasurer and membership chair, the membership was treated to a "Year in Review" presentation.

The presentation highlighted the many accomplishments by NMOHVA during the past year in the areas of promotion and protection of motorized recreation opportunities across the state, influencing legislation affecting our sports in NM, and improved communication between our Board, the membership, and other motorized recreation communities. The review also included NMOHVA's role in the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council's (NOHVCC) recent conference held in Albuquerque and highlighted NMOHVA's growth and increased role in networking with other similar organizations.

Chris Johnson presented past president and out-going Recreation Resources Director Joanne Spivack with NMOHVA's first Lifetime Achievement award for her tireless work in getting NMOHVA off the ground to where it is functioning today.

The next order of business was filling the four Board positions open in this year's election. The results were as follows:

President – Mark Werkmeister
Secretary – Terry Rust
Recreation Resource Director – Mark Toney
Board Member-at-Large – Ron Schubert

After a short break, the assembled members reconvened to suggest and discuss ideas and activities supporting three potential areas of focus for the coming year:

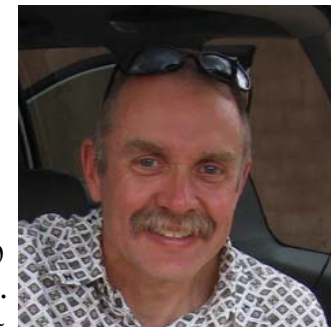
- 1) Growing membership
- 2) Promoting OHV Tourism in NM
- 3) Having fun (NMOHVA-sponsored events)

After a vigorous and productive hour of brainstorming, the Annual Meeting was adjourned and the membership enjoyed some camaraderie over a pizza lunch. #

New Officers Take the Reins for 2008

Mark Werkmeister, NMOHVA's new President has been known to four wheel drive enthusiasts and land access activists across the country for over 20 years. His 'day job' is Senior Staff Technologist at Intel, in Rio Rancho. Mark started 'jeeping' with his family,

over 30 years ago. He is a past president of Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association, a regional organization of over 30 clubs in six states. He is a past presi-



dent and one of the of the most longstanding members of the New Mexico 4 Wheelers,

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Joanne Spivack Awarded for “Lifetime” Achievement

By Chris Johnson

At the NMOHVA annual meeting on March 12th of 2008, NMOHVA's outgoing President Chris Johnson had the great honor to present the first NMOHVA Lifetime Achievement Award to former President and Recreation Resource Director Joanne Spivack.

Ordinarily a Lifetime Achievement Award is given when someone shuffles off into the sunset. But in Joanne's case, it was the most fitting way to recognize the extraordinary effort she has put forth since before NMOHVA was created. In December of 2003, when the Alliance was just a gleam in the eyes of Dana Bell and the other folks of the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC), and Terry Cook of the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), Joanne was already networking with various key players and OHV communities in New Mexico and elsewhere. So, when NOHVCC and the AMA came to town with their seed program, Joanne was well-suited to become NMOHVA Vice President, and then President in a time of need.

One of her most important roles as President was bringing new board members up to speed on projects and issues 'in the works'. Additionally, Joanne was instrumental in teaming with other OHV cham-



Joanne pictured here with Brian Hawthorne of Blue Ribbon Coalition

pions when anti-OHV forces in the State Legislature pushed a bill that would have severely crippled OHV recreation. Kids can still ride legally in New Mexico today because Joanne and others were vigilant in trying times. The one change in the OHV act that she claims as her personal victory was getting two seats on the state OHV board for representatives of

the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

When she persuaded Chris to run for NMOHVA President, the Board created the position of Recreation Resource Director for Joanne to continue her networking, ear-to-the-ground, and finger-on-the-pulse of New Mexico OHV recreation. After serving in that role for more than a year, she wanted to leave the Board to make room for new people with new ideas. Joanne said, "NMOHVA isn't just one person. I wouldn't want it to become dependent on any one of us." Joanne feels her best work was in educating OHV users about the political realities of land access, and serving as a communications center, touching base with many and linking people to each other and the information they needed.

As New Mexico's NOHVCC state partner, she will continue working to keep our state's incredible OHV opportunities available for everyone. After she's done that for a while, we'll present her with an award for a second lifetime's worth of work on behalf of OHV recreation. #

Gila Rough Riders Receive Polaris Grant (Cont'd From Page 4)

The Rough Riders are a youth ATV club organized by Alex Ocheltree, out of his ATV Mountain Cycle business in Silver City. The Rough Riders can be found on the internet. They promote safe riding and responsible use of public lands. (More information on this story is on the NMOHVA website.) You can apply for a Polaris grant too. Go the internet and search for 'Polaris T.R.A.I.L. grants#



Blackfeather Makes Generous Donation to NMOHVA Access Fund

Blackfeather Trails Preservation Alliance is an association of dirtbike riders committed to saving the single track trails in the Santa Fe National Forest. With the Travel Management planning now in the works, we are in grave danger that the Forest Service would ban motorized use on roads and trails. Blackfeather has been working extremely hard over the past years, meeting with forest personnel, taking them on field trips, making GPS maps of trails, etc. Blackfeather members have kept trails cleared from

winter debris for over 20 years. Blackfeather just made a very generous donation of \$1,000 to NMOHVA's Access Fund. The fund is used to protect and defend our access on public lands. This means the BLM and National Forest lands where we ride and drive. Virtually all legal OHV recreation in New Mexico is on BLM and FS land.#



Travel Management update, NM forests by Mark Toney

Important Note!! This is the information that is currently on the National Forest website and is NOT current, the comment periods have not closed on any of the Travel Management Plans!

Carson; Proposed action due out in May 2008, comments will be accepted in June 2008

Link: www.fs.fed.us/r3/carson/recreation/travel_mgmt/timeline.shtml

Cibola; Sandia District, Comments closed on the proposed action on Feb 2008, a decision is expected in June 2008.

Cibola; Mount Taylor District, Proposed action due out in May 2008, comments will be accepted in June 2008. Link: www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/travel-management/tm_mt_taylor/presentations/travel_management_introduction_031708.pdf

Cibola; Mountainair District, I was not able to contact anyone on the Mountainair district

Gila; The proposed action is due to be released summer of 08, the Gila has yet to decide on a forest wide EA or district level EA's

Lincoln; The proposed action on a forest wide EA is due out in June 2008

Link: www.fs.fed.us/r3/lincoln/projects/TMR/timeline.shtml

Santa Fe; "Travel Management Update for 4/9: The Forest was planning to release their Travel Analysis Process (TAP) report in early April and their Proposed Action shortly thereafter. At this time Forest Specialists are still working diligently to finalize the TAP report. The TAP report will be completed and released within 2 to 3 weeks. Once the TAP report is completed and released, the Proposed Action will follow shortly thereafter" Link: www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgmt/index.html