

Draft =>APPROVED Minutes of Meeting

February 5, 2015

New Mexico Herpetological Society

American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque

President Scott Bulgrin called our meeting to order at 7:12pm, welcomed guests and members (17) and asked for a reading of Minutes that had not been read at previous meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

Secretary Cosmos read Minutes of both our December 2014 and January 2015 meetings. With minor corrections and additions these were approved by members present.

Scott asked for the Treasurer's Report and Treasurer Letitia reported a balance in our NMHS checking account of \$3241.48.

Scott said that checks for helping with the Sandia Pueblo still have to be made out and sent to Mr. Carroll and any others. That brings up the need for an up-to-date mailing list, particularly of paid members. Letitia, Josh Emms and Scott will cooperate on coming up with the list. Ted Brown will be paid \$260 for his work. Scott will inventory the T-shirts with our NMHS logo. He said that books still are available for sale, both \$1 ones and more expensive ones for advanced herpers. He will find out when to pay for our website. Application for membership is on the website and the form along with payment must be snailmailed in to us. It was suggested that the category of Honorary Member should be maintained and that Charlie Painter and Lori be honored there.

Scott wanted to know what we thought about our 2014 Banquet. In brief, we will request to have it again at the Church Street Cafe', update our mailing list and invite more herpers, and have the projector ready ahead of the evening's program.

Scott reminded us that it is time to sponsor the same two rattlesnakes (Mottled and Banded Rock?) in the American International Rattlesnake Museum. Assured that the two have not lost their individual allure and crowd appeal, we approved payment and Letitia cut a check for \$104 and handed it to Bob Myer.

Scott went on talk about the Festival of the Cranes at Bosque del Apache NWR in 2014, reminded us that \$50 per diem must be paid to Sue and Ted Brown. Members approved the payment and our Treasurer cut that check. Ted Brown said that some 200 to 400 persons visited our NMHS table in 2014 compared to 1,000 persons in years previous. Snow and cold and being assigned to a different location in the Old Firehouse for one day contributed to the low attendance.

Scott recommended that speakers at our meetings receive an honorarium of \$25. We, including our speaker of the evening, Pat Maher, most generously approved that recommendation.

NEW BUSINESS

Scott read off a calendar of upcoming events suitable for NMHS outreach

February 21 N.M. Mesa School Children, ABQ, (10a-2p) Jerry Tuttle will be there.

April 30 Los Golandrinas, Santa Fe, for 20 schools, Ted and Sue will be there.

May 1 Bosque School, ABQ, Tom Eichhorst will be there

NMHS Memorial Day Field Trip

June Villanueva NM State Park, Sue and Ted Brown will be there

June 28 Coronado State Monument, Bernalillo, (10a-2p)

Valle de Oro NWR, south ABQ

Aug 14,15,16 NMDGF Outdoor Adventure Show, ABQ (1,600 people showed up in 2014)

September NMHS Labor Day Field Trip

September Dragonfly Festival, Bitter Lakes NWR

November Festival of the Cranes, Bosque del Apache NWR

Bob Myer shared with us that for Lorraine's birthday in January, they drove into Texas and stopped at a ginormous collectibles and antique store where Bob bought a sign that had been in Montana. He showed us the shiny new sign which read, "RATTLESNAKES HAVE BEEN OBSERVED--PLEASE STAY ON SIDEWALK."

BREAK

PRESENTATION

Pat Maher shared his animated narrative and stunning slides in BAJA 2014 and ARIZONA 2014. In search of Zonata, that is, California Mountain Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis zonata*), Pat and Vince Scheidt drove south to the upper reaches of the Baja California peninsula to two mountains: 6,000' Juarez and 9,500' San Pedro Matir.

Patrick reported seeing or finding: 22 neonate Southern Pacific Rattlesnake *Crotalus oreganus helleri*; Baja Mountain Kingsnake aka San Pedro Mountain Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis zonata agaima*); typical habitat for zonata is among boulders; at 5,200' to 5,500' elevation Juarez was cold; at temp of 20 degrees F a San Diego Gopher Snake *Pituophis catenifer annectens* was out on a boulder, inactive, with its tongue sticking out; Night Snakes (*Hypsiglen torquata*) were the most common species seen on all of their trips; the Western Skink (*Plestiodon skiltonianus*) is the main food source for the Mountain King; the Speckled Kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula holbrooki*) [mitchelli?] at 7,000' in the Matirs; the Southern Alligator Lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*) bites and does the death roll; habitat on Matir at 7,000' is sandy

with spiky plants; the Granite Night Lizard (*Xantusia henshawi*) changes colors from gray to black and back; dense underbrush; the gold wedding ring appearing in some of his images was on Vince's finger and not on his own; the Western Toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*) at 9,000' and 50 degrees F; the Slender Salamander (*Batrachoseps attenuatus*) was 2 ½"-long and inside a log; the tail of the Western Skink is bright blue; the fence lizard they found has blue scales; at 6,500' they could look west across hedges to the Pacific Ocean; there are Mountain Kings on Matir; at 3,500' on Matir they found tadpoles. (Spadefoot?); Pat recommended looking for kingsnakes during the month of March; San Quintin is 500 yards from the coast; and the Red Diamondback Rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber*), 4'-long and orange in color was within its limited range.

In Arizona in 2014 they found a Mojave Rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus*) in the Chiricahua Mountains. In Huachuca Mountains, there are no Ridge-nose Rattlesnakes (*C. willardii*); near the American Museum of Natural History Southwest Research Station along Cave Creek near Portal they found a Patchnose Snake and a Black-tail Rattlesnake with vivid gold and black coloration. After the last slide Pat called his experiences herping in two countries "Cool!!"

Pat concluded with news that on California's Channel Islands Golden Eagles drove out resident Bald Eagles and now prey on foxes.

Letitia cut the promised honorarium check for Pat.

Our meeting adjourned at 8:47pm

Minutes submitted by Secretary Cosmos

Thank you very much Bob and Lorraine Myer for hosting us in your American International Rattlesnake Museum!!

[P.S. REALITY CHECK: 14 of the 15 hottest years on record have occurred since 2000; the average global air temperatures over land and sea in 2014 were 0.57C above the average of 14.00C for the 1961-1990 reference period (NOAA, NASA); and half of Earth's animals have been killed by humans in the last 40 years (WWF-Living Planet Index).]

[ADDITIONAL INFORMATION Laguna Mountains in California and Sierra de Juarez and Sierra de San Pedro Martir in the Baja California state in Mexico are Peninsula ranges that trend north-south. Juarez is located to the north of Martir. Higher elevations of Juarez are protected within Constitution 1857 National Park. Its highest peak is 6,496'. Martir is protected within the Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park. 10,157' Picacho del Diablo is its highest peak and also the highest point on the Baja Peninsula.

The upper elevations of Juarez and Martir are within the endemic pine-oaks eco-region that includes Jeffrey Pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) and Parry Pinon Pine (*Pinus monophylla*).

The lower elevations of the western Sierra Juarez slopes are within the California coastal sage and chaparral sub-ecoregion. The western flank of the range lies at the southeastern extremity of the Mediterranean climate region. The lower elevations of the eastern slopes are within the

Sonoran desert ecoregion and are the southern natural distribution limit of the California Fan Palm (*Washingtonia filifera*)

San Pedro Martir park is known for its pine tree and granite rock formations, the California Condor that has been re-introduced by several international agencies, and the National Astronomic Observatory located on 2,800m Cerro del la Cupula. Built in 1971 and operated by U.N.A.M. (The National University of Mexico), this is Mexico's largest optical telescope with a diameter of 2.12 meters and a weight of 40 tons and is the second most important in Latin America. The lower elevations of the Sierra de San Pedro Martir are defined by chaparral and desert shrub. Sierra de San Pedro Martir is a southern demarcation of the distribution of the California Fan Palm.

Sierra Juarez IS approximately 45 miles (72 km) east of [Ensenada](#)]