

## Draft Meeting Minutes

Volume 54 Number 4

April 7, 2016

New Mexico Herpetological Society

We convened at the American International Rattlesnake Museum in Old Town Albuquerque.

President Scott Bulgrin called our meeting to order at 7:20 PM and welcomed 14 adult herpers.

Scott asked our Secretary Cosmos to read the Minutes of March 3, 2016. These were approved as read by members present.

At 7:38 Scott asked our Treasurer Letitia to report on the financial condition of the Society. Letitia said that the balance in the checking account of \$3,497.10 on March 3 had been increased by \$20.00 in dues paid and reduced by expenditures of a \$25.00 speaker's honorarium to Mitch East of Natural Heritage New Mexico and a \$150.00 donation to the New Mexico BioPark Society for the Cote Ivoire Catafractus Project which resulted in a balance of \$3,342.10 on April 7. The Treasurer's Report was approved as read by members present.

### OLD BUSINESS

Keith Crow told us that CrocTAG (Taxonomic Advisory Group) will be held May 5-7 at our Albuquerque BioPark and is open only to CrocTAG members. Cosmos asked Keith whether sessions will be video recorded. Keith said that he did not know. Scott suggested looking at the CrocTAG website [www.cag.crocodylia.com](http://www.cag.crocodylia.com) [cag@crocodylia.com](mailto:cag@crocodylia.com) for that information.

Scott said that Tom Eichhorst had sent to him information about a proposed banner screen for a rattlesnakes of New Mexico poster. Scott said that screens are 30" wide, pulled up out of a compartment base, and held up by a rod in the same way as a projection screen. Scott said he will get prices for a banner screen in full color.

Scott asked Jaci if she had contacted a source for t-shirts. Jaci said that she had located two printers of glo-in-the-dark T-shirts. The price is \$10 apiece when ordered in quantities between 12 and 26. There are art fees of \$45 for the set-up and a \$20 charge per screen for lettering. Keith suggested that Jaci contact Bob and Shirley Ashley at the Chiricahua Desert Museum about printing the T-shirts. Shirley and Bob are printing T-shirts for the CrocTAG event in Albuquerque.

575-557-5757 or 575-545-5307

Cell Phones Bob Ashley - 517-256-7831

Sheri Ashley - 517-256-5533

[desertmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:desertmuseum@gmail.com)

Scott suggested ordering T-shirts in these quantities: Kids small ; Kids large ; Adult small ; Adult medium ; Adult large 10 ; Adult X-large ; and Adult 2X for a total of 41 T-shirts with the NMHS logo.

Bob Myers told us disbelievers in the audience that he sells Rattlesnake Museum T-shirts in the ample sizes of 4X and 5X and then showed us one of the biggies, a 3X. Bob told us that he sells 18 of the 4X and 5X each year. Caroline gasped and said that she has never seen such a large T-shirt. Bob then said that he had special ordered a 7X and sells 6 dozen of size 3X in one year. Bob showed off his latest version of the Rattlesnake Museum T-shirt which sports new artwork and quipped that a super size will cover a couple. Bob also suggested using his artwork and printing New Mexico Herpetological Society on the next batch he orders. They were printed by the Black Duck company.

Caroline Newell of Exotics of the Rainforest [carolynmacaw@connections.net](mailto:carolynmacaw@connections.net) [www.exoticsoftherainforest.com](http://www.exoticsoftherainforest.com) 505-896-3133 © 505-220-4737 asked if NMHS is still considering having her and Sparky put on their parrot and herp show as a fund-raiser for the Society. Caroline said that they are booked and already have scheduled 14 shows to be put on at day care centers, camps, birthday parties, private schools. This is their 24<sup>th</sup> year in the business. Caroline said that she and Sparky will be going to Alaska for two and a half weeks in May which means that their 30 animals will have to be taken care of by a live-in in Albuquerque rather than being taken along aboard the cruise ship to Alaska and being in shows to help defray the cost of the cruise.

Scott said that he had submitted the necessary Access Permission Request Forms to the Governor of Sandia Pueblo which is required in the process of gaining permission to conduct our herp survey on four established sites on the bajada east of Interstate 25 this spring, summer and fall.

Scott said that he was at Wilson Middle School in Albuquerque yesterday to put on rotating programs for 110 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders in six class periods. On comment forms the students filled out they said they especially enjoyed the Tootsie Pops Scott handed out. Scott said that giving out candy rather than tests evened the playing field for disadvantaged students. Scott recalled that our Albuquerque Aquarium put on a program about sharks, Sandia Laboratory was an exhibitor and a local company explained solar power kits. Each session lasted 40-50 minutes. Scott said that his presentation herps included a Tiger Salamander, Great Plains Toad, Great Plains Skink, baby snapping turtle, Bullsnake, Cornsnake, scorpion, Pink-toed Tarantula and a hermit crab, a big hermit crab. Scott said that he brought out only two animals out at a time.

Scott brought up again that the BEMP programs will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.of April.

Caroline told us that shoplifters hit a PetsMart and wheeled a gigantic cage containing a big macaw right out to their car. Sparky added that the manager of the store is a kick-boxer and he went right after the shoplifters in the parking lot and got back the bird, cage and all .

Scott said he had seen television news about how a shoplifter had made off with a brand new bike from a sports store just by removing the sales price tag and rolling the bike up to a cashier and asking for a refund. The cashier told the thief that store policy required him to bring in a receipt. The bicycle thief told the cashier I'll have to go home then and find my receipt. Thereupon the thief left the cashier and the store with the new bike.

Cosmos brought up our need to have a policy regarding display of venomous reptiles. Scott asked our Secretary to write up such a statement and send it to him and Josh.

## NEW BUSINESS

Scott said that the long-promised trip to rattlesnake dens is coming up. 5 of us want to go: Delvin Jones of Alto, New Mexico, Scott, Bob, Malcolm and Cosmos. We cancelled last Friday. Will we go this Saturday? Scott said that the weather forecast for Clines Corners 65 for this coming Saturday is partly cloudy, winds out of the west 22 mph. Bolstered by this unexpected forecast from the all-knowing WEB of somewhat inclement weather for the coming Saturday, our Secretary asked, how about going during the week instead? Bob said he could go any day next week. To find out whether we will be allowed onto the ranch on a workday weekday, Bob left the room to call the rancher.

Scott told us that Jerry Tuttle said he can't serve as Newsletter Editor. Josh quickly offered to put out our Newsletter this time and also the all-important email asking for a volunteer to take on the Newsletter Editor position. Scott volunteered Cosmos for the job.

Ted Brown said that our Society's outreach to Cerrillos State Park located southeast of Santa Fe might be rescheduled to Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>

Christy Tafoya is Division Director of New Mexico State Parks.  
[Christy.tafoya@state.nm.us](mailto:Christy.tafoya@state.nm.us), 505-476-3355

Scott again brought up our need to choose a destination for our Memorial Day Weekend Field Trip and asked Cosmos to send him the list of places suggested at our March meeting. Cosmos agreed to do that and then, without apology to his captive audience, also proceeded to reel off: San Francisco Hot Springs, Chiricahuas, Rodeo, Sugarite Canyon, Roy, around Carlsbad, Black Range, Lower Gallinas, Chloride, Armendaris, the falls east of Sugarite and Clayton, Clovis, Roswell, Geronimo Falls, Queen, Black Mesa State Park in Oklahoma, the Floridas, Valles Caldera.

Sue Brown asked if we could use the cabin on the Armendaris Ranch located east of Socorro. Sue is not the same herperess who said that all she needed for a camping out place was a shovel and an arroyo. Josh said that our visit might conflict with tours of the ranch which take place during holidays. Ted Brown said that we will have to run our plans past Tom Waddell, Armendaris Ranch Manager.

Bob Myers: returned to our meeting with the okay from the rancher for us to visit during the week. Sparky's Smartphone came to life and told us in male and then female voices: Weather Clines Corners 57 degrees and partly cloudy. Sparky continued in his

own voice Saturday 65 and cloudy, 25% chance of rain. Monday 56, Tuesday 55, Wednesday 65, Thursday 69, and Friday 64.

Bob said that the south-facing den areas will be warm when the sun shines because of the surrounding rocks are jet black.

Scott suggested to Cosmos that they carpool and meet up with Bob at the Clines Corners Truck Stop at 8:30 AM after an hour to an hour and a quarter drive.

Scott brought us back to the question of where do we want to see the Society to go? And how do we get more younger people involved? At what age?

Scott reminded us, "We're all getting up there" and then zeroed in on Bill Degenhardt who was sitting in the front row. Scott uttered a resounding "90<sup>th</sup>!" and we applauded.

Scott noted that people come to a meeting then don't come again, mentioning, for instance, Lise from South Africa. What do we need to do to get more people to join and keep coming back? Cosmos proposed having students from Bosque School help with the Sandia Survey. Scott pointed out that they won't become members. Instead their teacher Dan Shaw said that student interns will want to write up their data and present it at conferences. Scott said that he would have to get permission from Sandia Pueblo for student publication of their data.

Bill Degenhardt remembered that it was the enthusiasm of UNM students which had formed the Society back in 1963. He said that UNM grad students now are too busy.

Caroline said that young people do not join clubs. Letitia said that they do not volunteer. Letitia asked, how about volunteering a young person to become Newsletter Editor?

Keith Crow said that he belongs to a Speleological Society that includes many university professors and students who are required to come to their Society meetings.

Josh noted that our meetings go on as late as some high school students are headed to bed and suggested having our presentations on Saturdays.

Sue asked Letitia how did junior herpers group begin. Letitia said that they got together on Saturday mornings. Ted remembered that they went on field trips to Juan Tabo and looked at each other's herp collections.

Keith Crow said that the Speleological Society takes kids on monthly field trips, has something going on on the second Tuesday of the month.

Sue recalled that parents brought kids to Society meetings. People just showed up. Now there's too much competition for kids' time from organized sports.

Keith asked, how about sponsoring national meeting? Get the Albuquerque zoo involved.

Sue asked Jaci, how did Max get involved? Jac said that her son started coming to Society meetings when he was 11 or 12.

Letitia said she came to meetings because she was taking Degenhardt's herpetology class- twice.

Cosmos suggested bringing in students from Bosque School and Albuquerque Academy who are motivated and whose parents are motivated.

Scott suggested that we hand out leaflets to high school students at the upcoming BEMP events.

Scott brought up that the Governor of Sandia Pueblo might say no to Bosque School students being on the survey and releasing results of their herp survey to a non-Pueblo audience.

Josh suggested bringing in students to Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge to help with the survey.

How about scouting groups? Josh had contacted Great SW Council, office on Jefferson in ABQ, said there's an Environmental Science and a Reptile and Amphibian Study Merit Badges . Girl scouts have been involved with the Bosque School and on Bosque del Apache NWR.

Cosmos pointed out the importance of having high school student interns learn data gathering and crunching and writing reports from Ted Brown, especially if he would lead the Saturday survey on Sandia Pueblo .

Scott added that the Governor would have to okay any release of photos and reports coming out of the Sandia Pueblo survey. And they could not be for commercial use. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, any federal agency must obtain permission from the Sandia Pueblo Governor to release information to parties outside of the Pueblo.

Keith cautioned that he had lost a subset of field data because the Southern Ute Tribe unexpectedly changed its policy regarding release of data he had collected.

Who would lead student interns on a proposed Valle de Oro survey? What would be the liability?

Scott segwayed to the new policy at Sandia pueblo: employees must use their personal vehicle with no mileage reimbursement while traveling on tribal business.

Someone suggested that to eliminate liability any school participating in a survey should provide a faculty chaperone to accompany the students.

Scott added that Sandia Pueblo also would have to okay release of information pertaining to the Sandia Survey bug collection.

Scott added that he would like to but does not have time to go through the Sandia Pueblo Reports that Ted writes and come up with his own articles for publication.

Scott said that he will talk to Jennifer Owen-White at Valle de Oro about having students conduct the survey on the Refuge. [Jennifer\\_owenwhite@fws.gov](mailto:Jennifer_owenwhite@fws.gov), 505-248-6667

Scott returned to the timely issue of getting younger members into the Society.

Josh told us that a group in California similar to our Junior Herpers of old has a ton-of-fun herping day for kids. Their parents are right there and their day is full of competitions: noosing the most, smallest, biggest lizard.

Sue said that the Junior Herpers had their competition day too. Letitia remembered that there were just as many parents as there were kids.

Scott asked about holding a junior herpers day on a Saturday this summer. Josh suggested it be a BioBlitz type field day for kids.

Keith suggested having it at Albuquerque's Explora Museum as a safer start. There could be a herp display for the kids who are always coming in.

Letitia said that Albuquerque zoo docents do not allow children to touch zoo animals because of the possibility of transmitting diseases such as salmonella.

Caroline said that she purchased a million-dollar insurance policy to cover liabilities that might arise from their bird and herp programs. She said that underwriters for this type of insurance are hard to find. One insurance agent is in Connecticut.

Cosmos brought up that in March Scott had asked our Secretary to find out when the dragon eggs will hatch. These so-called dragons are Olms Salamanders and eggs of a certain female are due to hatch in May in an aquarium in a karst cavern complete with a stream in Slovenia. The country borders on Austria and Italy.

Our NMHS Meeting adjourned into a much-anticipated annual sweets fest around 9:30 PM.

#### BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

For Bill, Jaci, Ted, Scott, Ed

Sue announced that there is birthday cake cut in different sizes, ice cream and coffee. Just today Bob had brought our Society's reliable coffee perker out of mothballs.

These detailed and evocative Draft Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2016 are submitted by Secretary Cosmos to officers and members on May 5, 2016

With thanks to Bob and Lorraine Myers for hosting us in their American International Rattlesnake Museum.

President Scott Bulgrin

Vice-President Josh Emms

Secretary Cosmos

Treasurer Letitia Peirce

Newsletter Editor