



Protect Your Right to Ride!



NMOHVA Member Newsletter

March

2011

Upcoming Events

Mar 5 - Gila Forest
Access Rally in Silver
City

Mar 7 - Comments on
Gila Travel
Management Due

Mar 18 - 2011 NM
Legislative Session
Ends

March 26 - NMOHVA
Annual Meeting

See the [NMOHVA
Calendar](#) for event
details and contacts.

Do you have an event to
share? Contact NMOHVA at
prez@nmohva.org for a
listing in the newsletter.

Fighting Lions in Santa Fe

NMOHVA has been very active in the legislature this session. NMOHVA President Mark Winscott has been doing most of the 'heavy lifting' with numerous trips to Santa Fe and way too many hours in committee hearing rooms. But let's hear it for Mark! While NMOHVA can't claim all the pro-OHV legislation is whistling through both chambers, we can proudly say that there isn't much anti-legislation to worry about either.



This year, legislators were primarily focused on the huge projected budget deficit. Every other effort took a back seat. Not so surprisingly, we often found it hard to garner wide-spread support for our legislative efforts in the shadow of the state's money troubles. The only remaining anti-OHV bill lurking is still the BIG one: A raid of at least \$500,000 from the Trail Safety Fund. HB2 (the main 2011 budget bill) currently contains a line item that would strip a half million dollars from the fund. HB91 would bump the raid amount up to \$750,000 but that bill is likely to be withdrawn.

NMOHVA urges all of its members to contact your Representatives NOW and let them know that the trail safety fund is made up entirely of money we pay to register our OHV's. There is no general tax money in the fund! Tell them that you want the money left in the fund to be used the way the legislature intended when it passed the original OHV bill. Tell them now. We are coming down to the wire. The legislative session ends at noon on

March 19th. Make the call!

If HB2 is passed the way it currently stands, we will soon be asking you to make just one more call - directly to the Governor's office encouraging a line item veto. We successfully stopped a previous raid at the Governor's office and we can do it again.

NMOHVA Attends the 2011 Chile Challenge 4WD Event

NMOHVA had a booth and a presence at the 2011 Chile Challenge in Las Cruces, New Mexico. The Chile Challenge is the Winter Quarterly event for the Southwest Four Wheel Drive Association. The event is known for featuring some of the best 4x4 trails in the country, ranging from easy to extreme. This year's event saw an estimated 280 vehicles signed up for four days of fun. Running February 23-26, the event is headquartered at the Southern New Mexico State Fairground, west of Las Cruces, New Mexico. The big annual gathering has been hosted by the members of the Las Cruces Four Wheel Drive Club for many years and is a HUGE undertaking. They do a wonderful job!

NMOHVA has had a booth at this event for the past several years, finding it an excellent way to stay in touch with our 4WD-loving members. Gathering names for our e-mail alert list, recruiting new members, and educating the 4x4 community about NMOHVA and threats to our access has always been the main goal of the booth. This year was no different. Unlike most of the other shows that NMOHVA attends, we were surprised that a majority of the people attending had already heard of us. Many said they were on our E-mail Alert List. Our presence by advertising is paying off!

NMOHVA co-hosted the Friday night Ice Cream Social as we have done for several years. NMOHVA also contributed several raffle prizes to the huge Saturday night SWFWDA Annual Raffle. These prizes were provided to NMOHVA by Desert Rat in Albuquerque. We want to thank them for their continued support.

There are legitimate concerns that the trails enjoyed during the Chile Challenge are in jeopardy of being closed by the upcoming management plan for the Trackways National Monument. NMOHVA will continue to work with all of the involved parties to keep these public lands open for multi-use activities.

We Will Miss You BR!



We're saddened to report that we lost NMOHVA At-Large Director BR Fjord this last month. He was a valued member of NMOHVA's Board and volunteered for many projects. BR Fjord lived in Grants, NM and was an avid ATV rider. Mt Taylor was his love and BR worked hard to protect public access to his favorite place.

Over the past two years, he was frequently exhausted by medical treatments, but he never gave up the fight for his life and for the mountain. We wish he could have hung on just a week longer to see the Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) designation for Mt. Taylor get thrown out by the judge. BR was on the front lines of that fight; against the designation that threatened public access

to the mountain.

Always ready to throw a leg over his ATV, BR organized an annual clean-up day on Mt Taylor. We'll be doing one again this spring in his honor. Next time you look out to that mountain, think of BR. We always will think of it as BR's place.

Vaya Con Dios, BR, we'll miss you.

6 - 5 - 4 - 3 ...the Countdown Continues

It is getting closer. NMOHVA's Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, March 26th at Sandia BMW in Albuquerque. The Annual Meeting is a great way to meet your Board of Directors, hang out with fellow motorized enthusiasts, and get a free lunch! This year's lunch is being provided by our hosts at Sandia BMW. During our business meeting from 9:00-12:00, we will review the past year, elect/re-elect members of the Board, and listen to your ideas.



Do you want you help make things happen? Have a passion for OHV recreation? Want to give back to the sport that provides you with so much fun? Consider joining NMOHVA's Board of Directors. We will be electing a Vice-President, Treasurer, and two At-Large Board members at the annual meeting. Please contact NMOHVA President Mark Winscott (prez@nmohva.org) or any of the NMOHVA Board of Directors if you want to know what is involved in being a Board member.

Don't forget that [Atomic Moto](#) has donated a \$25 gift certificate we will be giving away as a door prize. And don't forget to put the Annual Meeting on your calendar.