

January 24th, 2021

Canyonlands BCH *Winter* 2021 Newsletter

Welcome to a new year! Winter has arrived!



Canyonlands BCH Updates, Projects and 2020 Volunteer Hours.

First of all, thank you for your interest in the Canyonlands Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen. We greatly appreciate all our members. It goes without saying that 2020 was a difficult year. Life was put on hold while the COVID pandemic raged. I personally missed our regular chapter meetings, the potluck dinners, socializing and just seeing everybody. We were able to get out on the trails on small group rides, but it was a challenging time. Now the winter is upon us... It is said, the darkness is deepest just before the dawn. It is a new year and the promise of spring is just around the corner, hang in there!

Canyonlands 2021 Officers.

The Canyonlands Chapter officers for 2021 were elected at our January 5th meeting. They are:

President:

Stephen Schultz

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Vice President:

Susan Foley

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Secretary

Deb Hopkins

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Treasurer

Naomi Wilson

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Canyonlands 2021 memberships

For all who already renewed in 2021... THANK YOU SO MUCH!

If you haven't "gotten' around" to renewing your membership, please consider doing that now. Your membership is more important than ever. Numbers give us a seat at the table with the various land managers.

I would ask you to reach out to friends and family member and sign up a new member. Please help if you can!

Canyonlands 2020 Volunteer Hours Report

We have just finished compiling the CBCH 2020 Volunteer hours and here are the totals.

Total Volunteer Hours*	836
Total Miles Driven	4295
Total Stock-Use Days	119
Trail Miles Covered **	282.4

Note* Volunteer Hours breakdown

- Basic Work Hours 475
- Skilled Work hours 92
- Trail Recon hours 45
- Public Meeting / Trail Mix 28
- Admin, reports, mapping 71
- Travel time hours 123

Note** Trail Miles are recorded per ride length, not per individual rider.

Remember anytime you ride trail, pick-up trash, clear brush, report damages / conditions or document illegal use, it can be logged as volunteer hours. Any time spent working on a web page, mapping, GPS tracking, public meetings can be reported also. Also please log your driving miles, driving time and stock animals used. You can just go to BCHU.com and report your time using your smart phone, computer or other device. Click this button to report.

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Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision Team
Invitation

The Current Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan was published in 1986. We have posted a draft plan and associated draft scoping documents to our planning webpage and invite you to take a look at them and let us know what you think.

[Go To Website](#)

Old Spanish Trail Silhouettes.

Since the Fall 2020 newsletter we have received approval from the Grand County Commission (Yea!). We have sent an official letter to the DOE (Department of Energy) UMTRA office in Grand Junction. We are waiting for this final approval letter but have no recent update. I will reach out to their office again to get a progress report.

Working through Government red tape!



Slow down Mr. Turtle... Just one step at a time!

Grand County Trail Mix Updates

Here are a few bullet points from the last Grand County Trail Mix Meeting:

- The “at-large” camping sites at Klondike Bluffs Trailhead will be closed.
- The BLM is planning a designate Klondike campground with up to 60 sites
- The first phase will be 25 camp sites along with obligatory group sites.
- Group sites will now have a defined upper limit to the number of campers.
- The SITLA owned camping sites near Klondike Called “Klondo” are still open.
- The Dalton Wells area is becoming a state park.
- The park will be named “Utah Raptor State Park’
- The USFS has a new Cross country Ski trail grooming machine.
- As of the January 12th meeting, snow pack is about 40% of normal and only a few trails have enough snow.

The Bijou & Stearns Trails marking project.

Grand county Trail Mix and the BLM have partnered together to provide the signs and materials to mark the Bijou and Stearns Trails. Right now the cold winter weather has this project on hold. In some years, February can be the beginning of better weather and warmer temperatures. We will adopt a “Wait and See” policy until the weather breaks.

BCHU State Meetings.

The latest BCHU state meeting was held January 21st, 2021. Here are a few highlights:

- Utah Membership Report for Year Ending December 31, 2020, Total Numbers: 375 Memberships: 1 Benefactor, 4 Patron, 170 Individual, 200 Family. Our calculation for total 'members' =580
This is a decrease of 42 memberships, or 54 members, from 2019.
- A 2020 Volunteer hours report was presented. All Chapters are reminded to enter their hours via the Web page www.bchu.com or via submittal to Richard Webb. Chapters are reminded to follow instructions for entries in order to maximize the accuracy and utility of the data.
- At the BCHU State Meeting on January 21, the Board established a New Membership incentive for 2021. The statewide challenge is for each chapter to **grow its membership by 20% by May 1. Two \$500 grants will be awarded at the May meeting to:**
 - The chapter with the highest percentage growth over 2020 numbers
 - The chapter with the greatest number of new members

Chapters may count all new memberships who join between October 1, 2020 and May 1, 2021. You may also count renewals in the case of lapsed members who have not renewed in the past few years, including in 2020. As an incentive to get the membership involved in a friendly competition, your chapter might want to consider a chapter prize, such as a halter, or saddle pad, or gift certificate, for the member who brings in the most new members by May 1. The final 2020 membership number for your chapter, new members to date since October 1, and goals for this membership drive, are as follows: Chapter: Canyonlands Final 2020 membership count: 29
If Canyonlands chapter were to meet the percentage goal, that would be 6 new members by May 1st 2021.

(If we win this grant... We could purchase a CBCH T-Shirt for each member!)

Canyonlands Presidents 2021 Message.

2020 was crazy year, and 2021 is not pulling any punches. So many things have changed and will change further. Moab is expanding explosively. A person just needs to drive through town to see the new motels, condos and businesses. More people are seeking the Great American Outdoors, and looking for the “Moab Experience”. Pressure on the backcountry is building. Our mission in 2021 to “Perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses and Mules in America’s back country and Wilderness areas” has not changed. In fact it is more important than ever.

The Canyonlands Backcountry Horseman’s chapter is in a unique position. We are established and respected by the local federal land managers. We have a long history of working with government agencies to ensure our local public lands remain open to recreational stock use. Just look at what we have done, and what we are doing. We are entrusted to look out for the future equestrian trail riders in this awesome part of the country.

Please... take a minute and remind people of who we are, and what we do. Talk about the CBCH when you meet other trail users. If you have other horse friends, let’s get them signed up a members. There is strength in numbers.

These are truly unsettled times. Being grounded in horses, rocky trails and quiet places soothes the human spirit.

Thanks Friends!

Stephen Schultz

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Be of good cheer... Better times are heading our way!

