

High Desert Backcountry Horsemen Minutes
May 9, 2024
Approved at the June 13, 2024 Meeting

1. **Members Present:** Maria VanHart, Barbara Maxwell, Billy Robertson, Kathy Robertson, Diane Fralish, Kathy Stoker, Don Clark.

Maria called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

2. **Approval of April 11 2024 Minutes:**
Motion to approve the February minutes was made by Diane, and 2nd by Barbara. Approved unanimously.
3. **Survey Monkey Results:** Not directly discussed although the items discussed last month that seem to be important to members, including rides and trail maintenance, were discussed - see below.
4. **Diane campground project update? Shinarump?:** Not discussed since Noel is absent and he is involved in that topic.
5. **Treasury Update:** Cindy not in attendance, skipped.
6. **Liability Waivers:** Cindy not in attendance, skipped.
7. **Ride Review and Additions:**
 - a. April - Kathy led Swapp Canyon ride, see the HDBCH Facebook page for notes and a few pictures. This was a great ride, up into a slot canyon.
 - b. May 25-26 - Mike Henrie clinic for anyone wishing to attend, or possibly a ride of the southernmost part of the Grandview Trail. This lead into a long discussion of maintenance work on the Grandview trail - see below...
 - c. June 29th - Ride Grandview Trail, to be led by Robert Brown. This is a statewide ride, every Chapter is sending representatives. Robert can offer dry camping at his home, Maria offered that as well. Camping on BLM land may also be an option. The launch point has not been defined yet, but this will be a high elevation ride because of the probable temperatures.
 - d. July 20th - Diane - On the Kaibab
 - e. August - Probably on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Navajo Lake ride with the St George chapter
 - f. September 21st - Grandview Trail again, with Robert Brown. Possibly a lower elevation ride.
 - g. October - Cottonwood Trail
8. **What Speakers Would the Group Like to Have:** Not discussed.

Instead, Susan Johnston spoke - see below. Kathy Robertson also gave a detailed overview of the Gaia GPS app for backcountry navigation with a \$60/year subscription fee, and Don gave a one-minute mention of Avenza Maps, another navigation app.

9. **Trail Projects Let's Set Dates:** Although there was discussion of trail work in the context of trail rides and the Susan Johnston talk, there were no actual dates set.
10. **Do We Want to Offer Zoom as a Future Meeting Option:** Time expired, not discussed.
11. **Robert Brown - Trail Work on Grandview Trail:** Kathy and Bill rode with Robert Brown to survey part of the Grandview Trail. Kane and Garfield counties have provided \$10k each for trail cleanup. Grandview Trail is about 70 miles long, around maybe 2/3 of Bryce Canyon. Some sections need major work. Robert is employed by Garfield County to run equipment and clear trails. Maria commented that the Forest Service will provide a side-by-side for us to use to provide support to the trail clearing effort.

Utah BCH is applying for a \$20K grant for trail maintenance on the Grandview Trail.

12. **Susan Johnston Presentation:** Susan Johnston from the Adopt-A-Trail Kanab group, to talk about the need for maintenance on a variety of local trails. As it happens, the Southern Utah News (SUN) published an article in the current issue written by Susan that describes in detail what the group wishes to accomplish, with contact information. Please see that article for details. In short, the group is looking for a Maintenance Coordinator and group of volunteers for each of a bunch of trails. One of these is the Cottonwood Trail, and Maria volunteered that the Chapter would like to take on this trail.

Susan mentioned that often to get a grant requires providing matching funds. Sometimes the “matching funds” can be volunteer hours, and to that end she provided copies of the “patrol log” that captures these hours, to be filled out by the Maintenance Coordinator. She also provided copies of the volunteer safety agreement that we would all need to complete.

Don Clark will scan a copy of the SUN article and send it out the the membership ASAP, but in the meantime please check out Adopt-A-Trail Kanab on Facebook, or reach out to Susan directly at sjonthebeatenpath@yahoo.com.

13. **Adjourn:** Maria moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 PM, Don 2nd.