High Desert Backcountry Horsemen Minutes
March 9, 2023
Approved at April 13th Meeting

1. **Members Present:** Noel Poe, Mary Poe, Georgia Bentley, Jim Bentley, Don Clark, Barbara Maxwell, Gina Tullie, Billy Robertson, Leigh Beem, Cindy Beem, Jenny Beem Meeting convened at 6:39 PM

2. **Approval of February 9 2023 Minutes:** Mary made a motion to accept minutes as written, seconded by Georgia, approved unanimously.

3. **Treasurer Report:** Gina reported that the amount in the HDBCH's checkbook is $1917.65, no change in the amount in the cash box. There are 13 family memberships paid, and 3 individual memberships paid.

4. **Old Business:**

   A. **Membership:** Noel reinforced that members can still join, recommended talking to people to recruit them.

   B. **Dan Gunn's Talk on the Existing Trail System:** Jim reported on Dan Gunn's recent talk about trails at the library. Dan started with a bit of history commencing in 2008 and the Eclipse, Cottonwood, K-Hill, Tom's Canyon, Mansard trails. Mentioned when he took over at BLM that bike people started to be more visible and working hard to the the Arizona Strip BLM involved in bike trails in the Strip. Talk was mostly about the biking community and Tilted Mesa. He may have some pencilled in tracks for horse trails, still to be worked out. The next trail project is the Shinarump network of trails, with equestrian use suppose to be included. He also talked about a network of bicycle courses used for high school competitions. These courses attract 1000's of people at an event, both competitors and support folks. BLM wouldn't be providing parking, so likely wouldn't be doing anything to support these courses. Apparently Dan made a point that the trail system(s) should be multi-use. There were maybe 50 people in attendance, mostly bike people and hikers, and a few equestrians. Bike trails might also accommodate some classes of e-bikes. Jim reported that the # 1 state for mountain biking is Vermont, followed by Utah at # 2.

   C. **Trail System Planning in vicinity of State Line:** Leigh started by looking for grants in Utah, although 90% of the trail area is in Arizona, which has its own grant program. Leigh proposed marking the trail up on Google Earth, provide the resulting KMZ[1] files to Dan to get approval and maybe get it flagged, and we could start riding it. Maybe the April ride could be for that purpose. Leigh has already mapped out two trails near the first cattle guard on 8 Mile Gap, one 6.5 miles long, one 10 miles long. He offered to send the KMZ files to members, but cautioned that we need to be able to overlay BLM proposed trail system to see if there are conflicts. Can we get a KMZ overlay from BLM? Cindy brought up the future concern of environmental impact as the trail usage grows. We need some clarification from Dan on BLM's plans for trail heads; we could

perhaps get grant money to build corrals at trail heads, but we need to know if trail heads will be in Utah or Arizona.

5. **New Business**:

   A. **HDBCH Review of Trail Etiquette and Safety Standards:** Deferred to April meeting.

   B. **Chapter Rides:** We discussed the trail ride publicized by Kathy Robertson's email - there could be a road issue if it rains. Billy mentioned an alternative site 3-4 miles further down the road, and offered space in their trailer for 3-4 horses. Also mentioned that there might be cell service in the area of the ride.

   Cindy and Leigh volunteered for the April ride - see notes on marking a trail above. Noel suggested deferring planning for rides in May and beyond until the April meeting.

   C. **Facebook Needs:** While it had been mentioned that Gina was an administrator, she really only needs to be able to post pictures. Julia has administrative privileges, so Gina will contact Julia to get the necessary access rights. Still need an alternate administrator for when Kathy Robertson is away.

   D. **Potential for adding Zoom capability to meetings:** Gina asked if BCH has a Zoom account that chapters could use. Leigh has accounts for Zoom, Teams and others, and offered the use of these for future meetings. He will bring his PC and camera to the next meeting, for us to try a Zoom meeting. Access credentials will need to be emailed out in advance of the meeting, and we'll need to find out the WiFi password to use at the Kanab Center.

6. Kanab Center WiFi Password will be needed for providing remote access to meetings at the Center.

7. **Adjourn:** Barbara moved to adjourn at 7:45 PM, Noel seconded and adjourned the meeting.

[1] KMZ files - used by Google Earth to store data. For our purposes KMZ files can store trail routes laid out using Google Earth.