

## High Desert Back Country Horsemen Minutes

April 13, 2023

Approved at May 11th Meeting

1. **Members Present:** Noel Poe, Mary Poe, Don Clark, Diane Fralish, Linda Alvey, Maria Vanhart, Dr Erica, Barbara Maxwell, Cindy McCormack, Kathy Robertson, Billy Robertson, Cindy Beem, Robert Brown (guest speaker).

Noel called the meeting to order at 6:36 PM. No new members. Dr Erica has returned from a trip to Africa.

2. **Approval of March 9 2023 Minutes:** Kathy made a motion to accept minutes as written, seconded by Maria, approved unanimously.
3. **Treasurer Report:** Gina was out, reported through Noel that the amount in the HDBCH's checkbook is \$1987.65, two new members, no change in the amount in the cash box.

#### 4. **Old Business:**

- A. **Membership:** Noel reinforced that members can still join, recommended talking to people to recruit them.
- B. **Ride to Judd Hollow:** Noel described the ride, and interesting geological formations seen after lunch. He recommended checking the photos on the HDBCH Facebook page.

#### 5. **New Business:**

- A. **Trail Etiquette document:** Noel described the handout, Mary moved approval of the document, Diane seconded, approved unanimously.
- B. **Guest Speaker Robert Brown, 435-676-3095:** Robert retired from UDOT, spends a lot of time riding and playing with his horses. He found a bunch of old trails on maps, that were not cleared when he got out there to ride them. He started with a mule and a chainsaw, clearing trails that he wanted to ride. Garfield County then bought a Trail Cat for clearing, Robert now works for the County doing trail clearing. The Forest Service has not been happy about this, says the 3' clearing is too wide, cited lack of water bars and track marks from the Trail Cat. Robert identified a friend, Brett Stewart (801-573-3384), who works out of the Utah Governor's office and administrates a grant program. Apparently the registration fees for ATVs are set aside for trail maintenance. Robert suggested that funding may be available for volunteers, to pay for fuel, expense, maybe even time. He has been working on the Grand View Trail, goes around the outside of Bryce starting at Red Canyon. See <https://www.grandcanyontrust.org/hikes/cpe-grandview-trail>. Robert suggested reaching out to Kane County commissioners, to see if there is interest in the County of applying for a grant. Wade Heaton is apparently in favor - Noel will contact him. Kathy suggested that we should first understand the actual needs here in Kane County before going too far with the County commissioners.

C. **Additional Facebook Administrator:** Everyone can post pictures on the site, but posting about rides should be done either by an administrator or by whomever hosts a given ride. Kathy raised concern about everyone responding to questions about rides, suggested that ride leader(s) could do the postings. Someone volunteers to lead a ride on a given month, and that ride leader would do the postings. There should be a “tickler” posted for any ride as far in advance as possible, and then details get added when available. Typically rides are the 3rd weekend of the month.

Take Julia off as an admin, put Maria on.

D. **Chapter Rides:** Cindy Beam suggested riding the 6 and 10 mile loops on the Shinarump trails that she and Leigh had described at last month’s meeting, on April 29th. Maybe we would be able to flag the trails, Leigh waiting for a response from Dan Gunn about that. Details will come by email, and via the Facebook site.

Kathy and Billy may lead a ride to Seamen’s Wash east of town - Kathy will send out email to the Chapter.

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 May meeting.

The May ride will be led by Diane, around the proposed Ponderosa Grove campground on Hancock Road. She will post about this on the Facebook page.

June ride will be led by Noel, possibly the Arizona trail on the Kaibab. July will be led by Maria, August perhaps by Linda Alvey, September possibly by Maria. In October perhaps the ride will be on the Grand View Trail - coordination needed with Robert Brown (see above).

E. **Update on Equestrian Campground Plans & Activities:** Diane described the research done by committee members, to determine types of corrals needed, costs, basic stuff. A survey was done on the Horse Trails of America (HTA) Facebook page and the HDBCH page for five days, garnered 1621 responses. 96% said they would use the Ponderosa Grove Campground for semi-primitive camping, and Diane provided a bunch of other positive details. The camper’s main needs are water for horses, corrals, trails to ride direct from camp. Harold Hamblin apparently has water rights and would need to be approached about adding a hydrant - Kathy Robertson will contact him about this. Cindy raised a question about manure management - Diane said there will be a dumpster, wheelbarrow and ramp. She will also be working on a campsite layout, and ride loops, and she asked if HDBCH would be interested in developing trails in the wilderness area across the road from the Campground on BLM land.

F. **Trail System Planning in Vicinity of State Line:** See first comment above under section 5-D.

G. **Other Kudos, Concerns, Etc:** Ron Black had a heart attack, is at home and okay.

6. **Adjourn:** Meeting was adjourned by Noel at 7:47