



# Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members



## From the Presidents Saddle



By the time you read this, hopefully many things have been accomplished. This would include having a project work day, the first of several, creating a loop trail at the western edge of Zion NP. Members of the Wasatch BCH chapter were here for a multi-day trail ride as well as devoting one day helping with trail maintenance and construction of the Coals Pitt and Scoggins trails. There is a lot of work to be done over several more project days.

Probably one of the biggest accomplishments we have made is we are now a 501(c)(3) Public Charity. That will allow donors to claim a tax deduction for their contribution. To tie in with that, we hope to obtain a tax-exempt

status.

We have a new step over that was made by Josh Evans from Utah Technical College. This will soon be installed in Zone 6 of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, near Rein Makers. Once installed there will be access into what was once open to riding.

Speaking of Zone 6, one of our two May meeting educational session guests is Mike Schijf with the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. He will be describing what the county has in mind with the Zone 6 recreation area. New fencing has been installed to limit access in certain areas to hikers, mountain bikers and equestrians. It is part of the tortoise reserve so establishing designated trails in what has been open country is needed. That's where we can help. Once the step over is installed we can get onto the reserve and help, with assistance from the Jacksons at Rein Makers, identify potentially equestrian only trails.

Our second speaker is Alexis Cable, Certified Horsemanship Association. Her topic will include tips for being the trail boss and about riding in a group. If you missed the April chapter ride and burger burn, you missed a good one. A perfect day and a wonderful ride, thanks to Natalie Law who led the ride and hosted the social gathering afterwards.

As an FYI, our great relationship with the BLM has been shown again. Members attempted to ride the Gooseberry Mesa trail and found, half way through the loop, that it was

### NEXT MEETING

**5:30PM Business &  
6:30PM General  
Community Building**



### Monthly Ride!

**May 13th—Mount  
Carmel Junction**

**See Page 9 for Details**

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**May 3rd**

**Meeting at the Commu-  
nity Bldg**

**Business 5:30—General 6:30PM**

## Ride Story Leeds

April 8, 2023

By

Deja Schweitzer

Our April Chapter ride was in the Leeds/Silver Reef area and was hosted and led by our chapter member Natalie Law. It was a privilege to ride in this beautiful area as most of the trail we rode is only accessible through private resident access. Natalie led us on a beautiful, 7-mile figure eight-type trail cut in the red hills behind Leeds with majestic Pine Valley in the background all covered in white snow. The horses crossed a few small streams from the snow melt which was good preparation for the slightly larger Leeds Creek crossing. All 30 horses and riders did excellent and everyone really enjoyed the trail and stunning views. After the ride we tied up the horses in Natalie's corral and enjoyed a wonderful potluck with hamburgers and hotdogs cooked by Paul Sloane and Derek Schweitzer. Natalie and her family further entertained us in her barn with a private showing of the documentary film about Natalie and her daughter, Kyla and Kyla's record pony, "Flash" who all successfully completed the Tevis Cup, a grueling 100-mile endurance race that must be completed in less than 24 hours! Kyla and Flash came out and met the group, and several of us bought a signed copy of her book, "A Race Against Time", written by Claire Eckard, Kyla and Natalie Law.

We are so grateful to Natalie and her family for hosting such a wonderful and fun day for our chapter.

### From the Presidents Saddle (Con't)

inaccessible due to a unique step over for bicycles and equines could not cross. Short story: that obstacle has been removed and is now on a regular gate to open and close. Thanks to BLM for promptly addressing our concern. At the next business meeting you can expect to hear about our (Freddy and Lin) two meetings with National Forest staff. Pine Valley Equestrian Campground will be our main topic of interest. There is a group, Zion Regional Trails Collaborative, that is working on trail plans for a large geographic area of Washington County. From what I have read, they have excluded equestrians in their plans. Their initial focus is a trail along Highway 9 from La Verkin to Springdale. We are monitoring this and hope to have some influence. It was decided to Zoom the 5:30 business meeting and then use Facebook Live Stream to the educational session. We will try this to see how well it's received.

Happy Trails, Lin











### Coalpits Wash Trail Work Party

April 21, 2023

On 4/21/23, four Southwest BCH chapter members went to the Coalpits Wash Trail for a recon/work ride up Scoggins Wash, which until recently has been completely blocked for stock use. Zion NP trails manager and our chapter have worked together to open this trail once again and create a loop up Scoggins Wash to the Chinle Trail and then loop back down on the Scoggins Wash Stock Trail. We have several future projects in the planning stage as we work with, and under the authorization of the NP to improve the newly created trail and make it more stock-user friendly. Currently the new trail is only “roughed in” and not well established or marked. If you are interested in helping with these exciting projects please contact John West. This trail in its current condition would be rated difficult/advanced for both rider and animal due to some steep grades on unstable footing and one big leap where your animal would need to jump/climb up a 3 ft+ rock.

Deja schweitzer





**Meeting Minutes – April 5, 2023**

**In Attendance:** Lin Hokana, Jarice Butterfield, John West, Laurie Clay, Jeanette Blasdell, Tammy Engeness, Fran Wilby, Deja Schweitzer (via phone)

**Call to Order:** Lin Hokana at 5:30pm

**Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions**

**Minutes:** Motion made and approved to accept as published in the newsletter

**Review of Proposed Annual Trail Calendar:** Deja Schweitzer presented the new calendar that includes detailed information about the rides. Jeanette recommended that the Oct. 14th Reinmakers Play Date be changed from the 14<sup>th</sup> to later in the month with a Halloween theme. October 28<sup>th</sup> was proposed. Deja will check for availability with Reinmakers. John requested that Keith Wheeler lead a 2<sup>nd</sup> group in January on the Valley of Fire ride that is a little longer and more technical than Deja's. John will contact Keith to see if he is available to lead this 2<sup>nd</sup> ride.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeanette Blasdell: financials were presented, discussed. Motion made and approved to accept the Treasurer's Report.

**Old Business:**

- Emergency Evacuation Plan – Lin (April 22 DVFR Open House) – DV is having an open house; Lin will attend and bring back information
- 501(c)3 application status – Lin has submitted the application and is waiting for approval
- Signage re bicycles for public lands – Fran Wilby inquired about if the organization wants to make their own sign – she has someone that would assist with the design. Lin presented a standard sign that is copyrighted and we have been given approval to use their design. A sample design and costs will be brought back to the Board.

**New Business:**

- BCHSW Website: Deja Schweitzer is working on setting up this website. The chapter will seek tax exempt status once the 501(c)(3) charitable organization status has been granted and then activate the website. The chapter also now has an email address: [BCHU.Southwest@gmail.com](mailto:BCHU.Southwest@gmail.com).
- Review and vote BCHA Resolution – the chapter officers reviewed and approved the resolutions. Freddy Dunn is representing our chapter at the BCHUtah Zoom meeting going on concurrently with the chapter meeting and will advise of the chapter's approval.
- Business Cards for Officers – Paul will be designing business cards for the officers.
- BCHSW FB page name - Laurie Clay mentioned that the Facebook page is difficult to locate. She recommended that the search title (name) be revised. It was also recommended that members be allowed to post and the administrator then approves. Deja said the settings indicate that others can post – Deja will research this.
- New BCHSW Banner - Laurie is looking at getting a new banner that can be used at chapter functions. More information to follow.
- Meetings Via Zoom - the Board members agreed to Zoom the business meeting and Facebook Live Stream the educational portion of the meetings

**Committee Reports:**

- Liaison to local public lands agencies: Lin Hokana /Freddy Dunn, Co-chairs
- Future corrals at Pine Valley – meeting with Charity Jessop/Larry Velarde – no update
- Zone 6 Desert Reserve Step Over step over – Josh Evans will be constructing the step over. More information will be forthcoming.
- Santa Clara Trailhead – the sign that was intruding in the entry was moved
- Grant Requests – Lin
- BCHUtah for step over – Request submitted, not yet approved.
- Zion NP and grant – John/Lin: Grant has been approved. See work projects below for additional information.



**Liaison to State BCHU – John**

- Zoom meeting on 4-5-23 at 6pm – the grant request that the BCHU SW organization made will be discussed. More information to come.

**Annual Fund Raising/Membership Drive Dinner: Lin, Deja and John, Co-chairs**

- One box of candy left – it was determined to be an extra. It will possibly be sold.

**Membership – Laurie Clay, Chair**

- Flier to hand out and distribute– John said 1000 fliers are coming in two weeks; examples were disseminated
- Non-renewing members list – Laurie shared that she has been leaving members but has been able to renew some memberships.

**Work Projects: Jeanette Blasdell and Deja Schweitzer, Co-chairs**

- Zone 6 Desert Reserve Step Over Installation, then Scouting Equestrian Trails –No update
- National Trails Day June 3, 2023 – No update
- Zion NP project work day : Coal Pits Work Project - The Wasatch BCH group is coming on 4-28-23 with riders to work on this project. There will be other opportunities for the BCHA SW Chapter to work on the trail as well. Some chapter members may come on 4-28-23 – Lin and John will determine how many participants can attend on the 28th. The work will start around 10am. Lin reminded the group that the grant and funds to purchase equipment for this project and the equipment can be kept by the organization. The project is focused on making a trail between point A and B (there currently is no trail). There will be a date before the 28<sup>th</sup> to set up corrals and Lin and John will meet to plan this and will let members know.
- Cottonwood: This project will be combined with the Cottonwood ride and will be moved to June 3<sup>rd</sup> from the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Education: Freddy Dunn, Chair**

- May – Mike Schijf, Red Cliffs Desert Reserve; Larry Velarde, Acting District Ranger, USFS
- June – Potentially Natalie on horse hydration
- August –
- September
- October –
- November -
- January 2024 -

**Ride Calendar: Deja, Chair presented new ride calendar and format with more details (see calendar)**

- 8 – Leeds, Natalie Law Trail Boss. Burger Burn and movie to follow.
- May 13 – Mount Carmel Junction
- June 10 – changed to the June 3
- August 12 – Pine Valley, burger burn to follow
- September 9 – Navajo Lake
- October 14 (OR Play Day Reinmakers on the 21<sup>st</sup>) –
- November 11 (Veterans Day) – Gooseberry Mesa
- January 13, 2024 – Valley of Fire to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> higher level ride with Keith Wheelerv

**Motion made and approved. Meeting Adjourned****Educational Presentations:****Paul Walker, Assistant Director: Leisure Services - Parks, Fields, & Trails**

There was a grant awarded in the area referred to as "Exit 13"; the Washington City will be taking over and maintaining the trailhead in this area. He made a first draft of the design available for participants to look at. There will be a parking lot, water, bathrooms and a sitting area will be added. There will also be hitching posts added. The question was asked if there will be a spicket for watering horses and Paul indicated that there would be. It was brought up that Cottonwood is way too narrow for



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**Tim Walters, Trails Supervisor, Zion National Park**

Tim said the grant that was granted was for upgrade to some trails in the Zion National Park area. The goal is to improve the trails they have as well as better develop some additional trails. Coal Pits Wash and Huber Wash. The grant the Huber Wash will be improved but will not be an official trail. It will be delineated and marked. Huber Wash has a large pull out and this will remain the same. There were other trails discussed. Some trails leading to Scoggins Wash that are not good for stock (there are big rocks) will be made more usable for stock. There will be horse use available at the back country camp sites. There is another trail where there are large dips that horses sometimes cannot get up. Tim said that he did put in funding to put in three bridges in this area. The illegal biking trails will not be improved (signage and markers). The Dalton Wash Trail which is a spider web now will be somewhat improved.

**Meetings adjourned at 8pm**



Lin Hokana and other talking with Tim Walters, Zion Nat'l Park



Natalie Law Talking with Washington City Planner re: Exit 13

## Calendar of Events

**May's chapter ride is located approximately 65 miles from St George near Mount Carmel Junction. We will be riding in the Parunuweap Canyon to Bay Bay Slot Canyon. Distance is 9 miles, approximately 4 hours in the saddle and is rated easy.**

This is a beautiful canyon ride that crosses the East Fork Virgin River over a dozen times. Bay Bill is a large sand wash that we will ride for about 1.5 miles before it turns into a slot canyon. You can ride in the slot canyon for .5 mile then turn around. Bring water, lunch and a hat.

**Ride start time will be 9:00 am on May 13th**

**PLEASE RSVP to [bchu.southwest@gmail.com](mailto:bchu.southwest@gmail.com)** so we know you are coming. Please allow for two hours travel time from St George.

### **Directions to our trailhead:**

Mount Carmel Junction is 17 miles northwest of Kanab. The following directions are traveling through Cane Beds AZ and the Corral Pink Sand Dunes. Going through Fredonia and Kanab will only add ten minutes.

From I-15 take exit 16/ HWY 9 towards Hurricane, then turn right onto Main Street then left onto HWY 59 towards Colorado City. Travel 27 miles, passing through Colorado City then turn left to the Cane Beds/HWY 237 towards the Coral Pink Sand Dunes. Travel 28 miles, the road will come to a stop sign turn left to get on US-89 N towards Mt Carmel Junction. Travel 2.9 miles at the bottom of the large hill (before Mt Carmel Junction) turn left onto a dirt road. You will drive 5 miles down the dirt road to the Barracks Ranch, crossing a stream and two cattle guards.

**You must have a good 4-wheel drive truck able to drive your loaded trailer up a dirt hill when leaving the trailhead.**

## Sponsor of the Month!



**Kyle Chappell Ledges Golf Course**

## Chapter contacts

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Back Country Horsemen of Utah



Southwest Chapter Newsletter  
P.O. Box 3174  
St. George, UT 84771

**The Purpose of the Back Country Horsemen of Utah is:**

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses and mules in America's back country and wilderness.
2. To work to ensure the public lands remain open to recreational pack and saddle stock use.
3. To assist the agencies responsible for the management of public lands.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in wise and sustaining use of back country resources by horsemen and the general public, commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new chapters of Back Country Horsemen throughout Utah.

To:

**BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF UTAH—Southwest Chapter**

PO Box 3174, St. George, UT 84771

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

New Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME/S: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please list names for family membership. Children over 18 may be included in family membership or join as individual members.

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE NUMBERS:**

Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER HORSE/MULE ASSOCIATIONS YOU BELONG TO:**

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Liability Release: (MUST BE SIGNED)**

Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident wherever horse/mule use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses/mules, riders and spectators and also recognizing the fact that Back Country Horsemen of Utah, including units, officers, directors, or members cannot always know the condition of trails or the experience of riders or horses/mules taking part in trail rides or other BCHU functions, I do hereby release the above named from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children or horses/mules.

By signing this release, I/WE recognize the following Utah State Law, \*UCA 78-27b\* Limitations on liability for Equine and Livestock Activities \* It shall be presumed that participants in equine or livestock activities are aware of and understand that there are inherent risks associated with these activities. \*Inherent risk\* with regard to equine or livestock activities means those dangers or conditions, which are an integral part of equine or livestock activities. The equine activity sponsor is not liable for those inherent risks. If you are unwilling to assume these risks for yourself or for those under your supervision, you should not participate in these activities.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO BCHU: Individual: \$30.00; Family: \$40.00; Patron: \$100.00