



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

April 2024



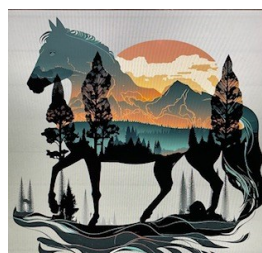
From the Presidents Saddle



April is my favorite month and it is soon gone – sure wish April had a couple more weeks added to it. The weather has been a mix of “perfect”, windy like March and a taste of summer. April comes and goes too quickly Here’s what’s happening with our chapter. We have merchandise with BCH logo, thanks to our committee who sourced it and had it made. The intended purpose for this is to help advertise our chapter. We will be giving an item of the person’s choice to each new member when they attend a chapter meeting. .

We need new to continually recruit new members and this gift is a way to thank them for joining. For existing members, we will have a drawing at chapter meetings and the lucky winner will be given one of the items. See the images of the visors, beanie and cup elsewhere in the newsletter Speaking of “new members,” BCHUtah has a program to award the chapter who recruits the most new members and also for the chapter who has the largest percentage increase for 2024. The deadline for this is July 4 and the award is \$400 for those two categories. Our chapter has the most members of the UT units but are down about 25 memberships compared to last year this time. If you know or meet someone who would join with a little encouragement, please hand them an application (the last page of our monthly newsletter) or guide them to any of the websites to join (www.bcha.org or www.bchutah.org or www.bchusouthwest.org). And if

(Continued Pg 6)



May 1st

**Meeting at the Community
Bldg 6:00PM Education
Business to Follow**

NEXT MEETING

**Community Building
May 1, 2024**



**May 11th
Mount Carmel**

There is primitive
camping and corrals
available

See Page 7 for Details

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Babylon Arch/Toquerville Mine Trail Ride

April 13, 2024

It was a bright sunny morning as 9 riders and 10 horses assembled in the trailer parking area to embark on a colorful and scenic 9-mile ride. The parking area also held a couple other horse trailers when we returned. I hope they had as much fun as we did.

Riders (Rick and Sheryl Schmalz, Angie Smith, Tammy Engeness, Laurie Clay, Debbie Grise, Kathy McGann, Wyatt Marchant and trail boss Jeanette Blasdel) and their mounts cleared the parking lot horse hurdle and assembled in the desert. Many horses grazed on the available grass during rider introductions which were followed by a pre-ride safety briefing provided by Trail Boss Jeanette Blasdel. After a few final tack adjustments, we were ready. With the high snowy peaks at our backs off into a sea of brilliant color we went.

Setting out into the desert meandering through the low scrub as our horses warmed up in fine sand footing while riders chatted and caught up on things. The bright mid-morning sun and blue sky made for a very welcoming start to our ride.

After a brief regroup and tack adjustment, the fine sand footing began to give way to more rocky areas as we crossed shallow sand overlaying flat rock ledges. We then began a gentle climb as the colorfully brilliant rock formations filled our horizon. The horses were warmed up but riders had no need to remove layers since the temperature was perfect from the start.

We began a more rigorous climb with some technical areas which demanded full attention from both horse and rider. Descending a challenging section we arrived at the arch. Kathy McCann volunteered to be the group photographer for the riders who wanted to file through the arch and have a quick picture taken. Descending further we made two wide and fairly deep river crossings making sure to stay where the bottom was rocky and firm enough to support our mounts.

Moving on we climbed to a higher meadow with great views of the surrounding area and lots of grass for the horses. We were near the halfway point and it was time for a break as nature called to some riders.

The second half of the ride would again include some technical ascents and descents and a few much milder water crossings. The scenery was spectacular in the fashion only southwest Utah can offer.

While descending through a narrow technical area the riders in front of me went right while I decided to try the narrow chute to the left instead. My mount, Dually, a 15.2 Quarter horse caught a hoof and then while trying to recover his other hoof slide off a rock. We were twisting and heading for the ground. The priority immediately shifted to getting clear of my horse who was flailing to get back on his feet in this narrow rocky chute.

My mount and I successfully got away with some cuts and bruises and my ponied horse Maverick cleared the wreck area to just stand and marvel at the spectacle. With help from Wyatt, I was able to secure my horses, gather my wits and ride on.

Trail riding is always an adventure where memories are made. I will always remember my **first and second rides** with Southwest Utah Backcountry Horsemen. My wish for future rides would be for my horses to always stay on their feet. What a great group of horsemen you are. See you next month.

Happy Trails...Rick Schmalz of Mountain Springs, Nevada



Meeting Minutes – 6 PM, April 3, 2024

Call to Order: Lin Hokana

Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions

Educational Presentation: Ron Cooper, [Trails Crew Foreman, UT Div. Outdoor Recreation](#)

Persons Present: Freddy Dunn, Lin Hokana, Keith Wheeler, Deja Schweitzer, Scott Ford, Kathy McGann, DeAnn Fieselman, Fran Wilby, Tammy Engenes, John West, Ronald Johnson, Debbie Grise, Jarice Butterfield, Bill Edger and Eliza Edger

Minutes: Motion passed to accept/corrected as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Jeanette Blasdell – excused absence

Old Business:

- **BCHU-Southwest Merchandise** – committee report: Kathy Duvall acquired jars of honey to give to presenters. Cost was \$12 each. Kathy McGann shared the committee purchased items with BCHU logos to promote the organization: 24 stainless steel tumblers/coffee cup, 24 visors and 12 beanies. They spent the budgeted \$1,200. They will be ready in one to two weeks. The items will be sold.
- **Purchase new signage for new fencing at Red Mountain Trailhead** – Lin disseminated the wording for the “scoop up your poop” signage. Lin applied for and was awarded a \$500.00 grant from the State BCHU chapter to pay for the signage with the chapter’s QR code included. Signs will be available from vendor soon.

New Business:

- **IRS Form 990-N Income Tax Statement for 501(c)(3)** – Freddy will see if she can add our chapter to the current account; she manages for the State chapter.
- **Grand Canyon Parashant N.M. and Mt. Trumbull trail work (Greg Page)** – Lin asked if anyone had a contact with a closer BCHU chapter that may be able to partner on this project. More information is needed as to the location in order to determine if it is feasible for the SW Chapter organization to assist. Lin will seek more detail.

Request to Zoom the business meetings - Freddy will bring a second laptop and Jarice will provide her Zoom account and set up the monthly link. Freddy will send the link out with the monthly agenda announcement.

Committee Reports

Liaison to local public lands agencies: Freddy Dunn and Lin Hokana

Coal Pits/Scoggins Wash – Lin has reached out but has not received a response.

3 Peaks Challenge Course – Freddy sent an email to Andy Farrell from the BLM and sought to get Cedar City members involved. She has not yet heard back.

Hurricane Trailhead at 600 North – Tammy provided an overview of the changes that have been made. She noted that they put blacktop in front of the step-over which is too slippery for equine riders. It was suggested to have a gate or other viable option. Freddy suggests putting together a proposal indicating what we need for the safety of riders along with photos. Lin and Freddy will contact Washington County. Lin will discuss with Paul Sloane to possibly create a blueprint of what is recommended to ensure safety of equine riders.

Membership – DeAnn Fieselman

BCHU Membership Drive to increase membership – Lin shared that the State BCHU Organization is offering a \$400 reward for the chapter that gets the most additional members and/or percentage of increase in membership. The deadline is July 4, 2024. Freddy will bring brochures with the insert for people to sign up to disseminate so that Chapter members can pass them out. It was suggested that members disseminate them at the trail heads, etc.

Review of roster of non-renewing members – the list was disseminated to get updates on people who have moved or need contacted.

Work Projects: Jeanette Blasdell and Deja Schweitzer

Red Mountain Trail Maintenance – Lin sent GPS coordinates to the BLM for a couple sites that need help. The trails encompass more than one jurisdiction (BLM, Snow Canyon and private land), so permission may need to be granted from more than one agency.

The road from HWY 18 to the trailhead has many potholes and needs grading; two jurisdictions. In addition, it was mentioned that there have been accidents and that a turn lane is needed into Red Mountain. Lin will contact BLM for guidance.

Adding gravel/sand/road base needed at these to step overs: Members were asked to send Lin the names of trail heads that need road base for a May work project. Jarice shared that road base runs \$15 per ton from Sunroc. 600 in Hurricane Harrisburg near campground Cottonwood

Education: Doug West

May 1 – Steve Snow and Bill McMurrin, Virgin River Land Trust

June 5 – Rick Miller PhD, Geologist, ICL, UTU

o July 3, No meeting

August 7, Amanda Rolland, Zion National Park

o September 4, Amber Van Alfen, Bureau of Land Management Archeologist

o Oct. 2, Phillip Murdock, PhD, Professor Emeritus, BYU Idaho, Writer, Poet, and Painter

Nov. 6, TBD

Ride Calendar: February 5, 2024

- April 13 Babylon Arch, Trail Boss Jeanette Blasdell
- May 11 Mount Carmel (there is primitive camping and corrals are available)
- June 1 Pine Valley Camp Out (members should reserve and/or RSVP to Jeanette)
- August 10 Navaho Lake
- September Buckskin Gulch
- October 19 Reinmakers (obstacle course and trail)
- November 9 Donut Hole
- January 11 Rainbow Ravine (2-hour drive)

Announcements:

John West shared that the Wasatch Chapter has inquired about their Chapter helping us on a service work. They plan to be here May 6-11, 2024 and would like names of trail to ride, etc.

Adjourn: at 7:45PM

And if **you** haven't renewed, please do. As I'm writing this, I am also applying for a grant from the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. The funds would be used for additional metal corrals at Pine Valley Equestrian Campground. We have support from the Forest Service to pursue this and hope our need is one the Alliance would approve.

There has been some activity regarding the restoration of historic trails in the Coal Pits and Scoggins Wash trails. Zion staff has purchased materials that were part of the grant to construct signage and other infrastructure. More information about this coming soon.

The chapter purchased and installed new signs at Red Mountain Trailhead to tell users to haul out your manure. These are the same design, white with blue lettering, that were placed at Cottonwood and Harrisburg trailheads. These were updated with a QR Code, which, when scanned, takes one to our chapter's website. How cool is that!

Here's another cool idea. We will try using Zoom for our business meeting this month along with using Facebook live for our education session. We wanted to see if our members not close to St. George would like to participate. If you would like to attend via Zoom, see Freddy's emailed link with access codes, etc.

Our May educational session features Steve Snow and Bill McMurrin with the Virgin River Land Preservation Association. The VRLPA's mission statement says, "Working with communities and landowners to preserve southwestern Utah's heritage of scenic beauty, open lands, and quality of life." An example of their work: VRLPA is working with landowners in Pine Valley to acquire additional conservation easements and expand the protection of the meadows. During 2022, two additional but significant acres of meadowland across the lane from the historic chapel were protected, bringing the total to over 100 acres! For more information, here's a link to their website: <http://virginriverland.org/>. Please join us to learn more about the VRLPA.

Happy trails...Lin

Merchandise with BCH Logo



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 10:00 am

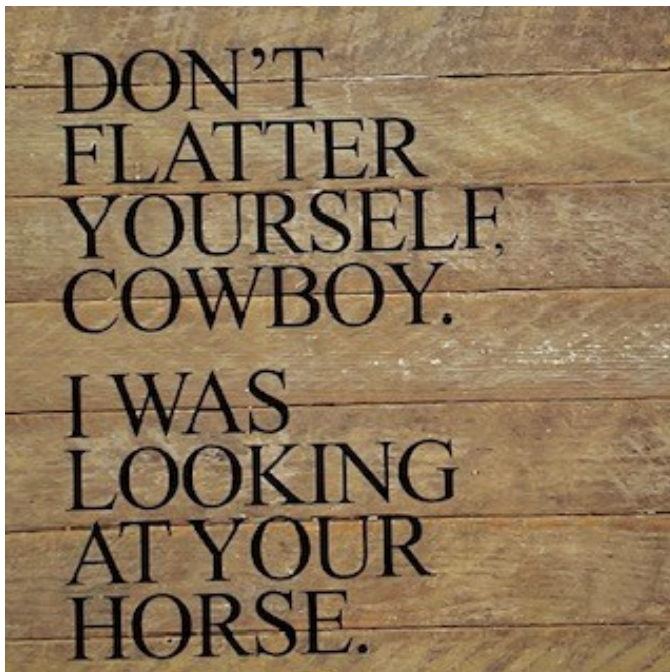
PLEASE RSVP to trlhead.utah@gmail.com so we know you are coming. Please allow for two hours travel time from St George.

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.



Chapter contacts

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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

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: