



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

April 2025



From the Presidents Saddle



Welcome warm weather to St. George! With the change in weather, friends come to visit our area from all over the mountain West to thaw out a bit and do some fabulous riding.

Recently a group of us locals met 4 riders in the parking lot of Red Mountain Trailhead from Teton Valley Idaho BCHA. They were ecstatic with our trails and weather vs the snow and still frigid cold back in Idaho. We invited them to our chapter ride to Snake Gulch, but most were on their way back to Idaho except one— Paul (sorry didn't catch his last name). Paul was still in Utah and joined us to ride the remarkable

petrography seen on the trail at Snake Gulch. Paul was quick to remark about the quality of our website (Thanks Deja!!) and remarked about the varied and plentiful available trail rides in our own backyard. Paul was also quick to comment about the friendliness and helpful nature of our local members and offered to reciprocate with our members when going up north to the Teton area of Idaho.

Wasatch Chapter of BCHU has also announced an upcoming and routine annual visit by approximately a dozen riders to our area beginning on May 7th to ride Southwest Utah fabulous trails for a week. Richard Webb, former Utah State President of BCHU will be leading the group and has offered to join us for a work project while here. We are hearing they are interested in riding Gunlock, Wildcat, Hopp Valley, Babylon, Cottonwood to name a few trailhead locations. They will be staying at local visitor quarters such as the Horse Motel in Washington and Reinmakers in St. George.

May 7th
Meeting at the Community Building 6:00PM



Or Not!

NEXT MEETING

Community Building

See Page 8 for details



May 10th
White Reef Trailhead Leads

See Page 8 for Details

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BCH Ride April 12, 2025

Snake Gulch

By

David Barnhurst, (BCHUSW) Hatch, UT

Snake Gulch is an awesome canyon south of Fredonia AZ. It is an easy ride for horses. It is best in spring and fall as it gets very hot in the summer. We had a total of 10 riders participate in the ride. We had riders from Northern Utah and one from as far away as Driggs Idaho come to enjoy the day with us. Riders included: John West, Tammy West, Deja Schweitzer, David Barnhurst, Michael Huntsman, Kent Crump, Daniel Crump, Debra Barton, Ron Johnson and Paul Forester from BCH Idaho.

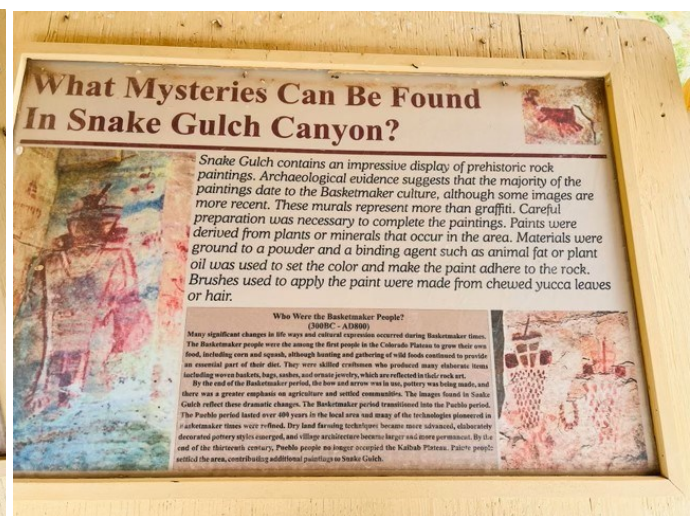
Some of the riders met bright and early to caravan together to Fredonia, others camped at the Barracks Corral near Mt. Carmel Junction. We all met at a gas station in Fredonia to travel together to the trailhead. Once we arrived at the trailhead we all got our horses ready to go and talked about what to expect from the trail.

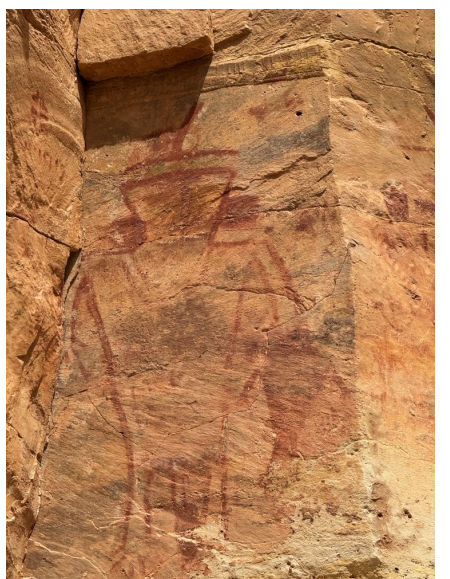
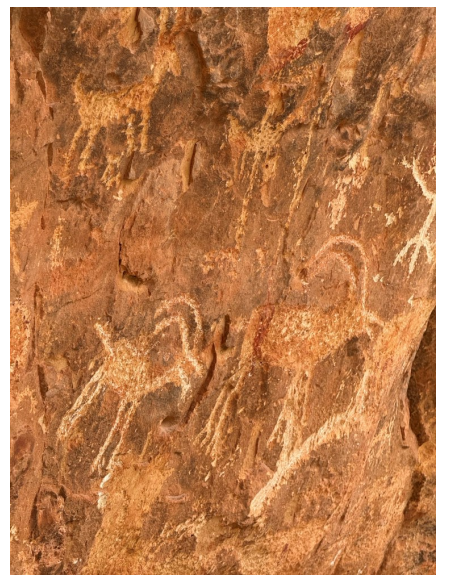
This ride is an easy ride with very little elevation change and good sandy footing for most of the ride. After riding for a little over 2 miles we came to the first alcove that had many petroglyphs. At this and all of the other sites we took turns riding up to get closer looks. As usually happens there were several pictures taken at this site. The farther we traveled down the canyon, the more selective people got of how many pictures we took. According to a USFS video this canyon has over 10,000 individual ancient figures. The petroglyphs/pictographs are estimated to be 2-3,000 years old. Most of the figures are between 2 and 7 miles from the trailhead. On our ride we saw hundreds of amazing pictographs, some of which are several feet tall and very detailed, using several pigments. The paint colors we saw included reds, yellows, blacks and whites. Most are found on the right side of the canyon as you travel away from the trailhead.

At our turnaround point, about 7 miles down the canyon, we turned up a small canyon just past table rock. We rode up to the table rock spring and enjoyed a lunch break and visited for a little while.

After lunch we worked our way around table rock to see one last alcove with several large pictographs. No one chose to ride or hike up the hill to get a closer look. After this spot we started heading back to the trailers at whatever pace the riders wanted to travel. I think there were 3 groups as we headed back.

The ride ended up being about 14-15 miles long and took us about 5 hours. You could go farther to try to find more to look at. You could also spend more or less time depending on how closely you want to search the rock walls. It was a great time with great people and some awesome horses.





Animal Evacuation Training Program
April 1-2, 2025
Story by Lin Hokana

What would you do if you're in the middle of a disaster requiring humans and animals to be evacuated? This could be a wildland fire, earth quake, major disease outbreak, flood, an act of terrorism (nuclear event), etc. Where would 20, or 100's of people go? Washington County is developing an animal evacuation program for such events. As a start, training was held on April 1 and 2, conducted by Tracey Stevens from the Department of Homeland Security and held at the Washington County administrative building. About 30 people attended (I didn't take a head count) with folks from Salt Lake County, Weber County, Iron County and Washington County. Most were either part of their county Emergency Management Services or animal control departments.

An outcome from Hurricane Katrina was recognizing the need for animal evacuation protocols, which became mandated for every county to establish. As a horse owner, I knew a **large animal** evacuation program was created in the California county I previously lived in. Here in Utah we have not yet addressed this need, hence the training program. Our Emergency Management Services staff have taken on the task and are developing a comprehensive plan.

So why am I mentioning this here in the Southwest chapter newsletter? Being a horseman with some equine-related skills, I attended to better understand the process. Other "civilians" that attended were Dr. Ron Johnson (also from BCHU-Southwest) and Robin Fulford (representing Dammeron Valley Fire and Rescue). The City of St. George put together a little video of the event, link here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=998758735221101&rdid=6Ks23fgJrYEwAzh8>

This program will take time to put together. Under consideration are not just owners' cats and dogs, but equines, cattle, goats, sheep, exotic birds and even bee hives. Here are four ideas that were mentioned during the training – 100's of ideas were mentioned:

Have the equivalent of a go-bag for each animal (halter, collar with tag, crate, food, medication, etc.)

Turn off sirens around animals.

Animal evacuation teams (this will not be first responders – they're busy with the disaster) should have separate focus of large or small animals, but cross trained to handle both.

People may want to have tents in their go-bag so they can stay with animals rather than be separated between human and animal shelters.

One of the end goals is to have animal evacuation teams that can be called upon in time of need. These volunteers would be trained and sanctioned by the county, similar to search and rescue volunteers. This is where you and I fit in, along with members of other local horse organizations, i.e. barrel racers, ropers, cutters, breeders, etc. We would be the boots on the ground, taking direction from the incident command team.

Hopefully you have many questions. This is a work in progress so stay tuned.



BCHU Southwest Chapter Meeting Minutes April 2, 2025

Members Present (in person or via Zoom) Keith Wheeler, John West, Tammy West, Ronald Johnson, DeAnn Fieselman, Eliza Edgar, Tammy Engeness, Fran Wilby, Dana Millsap, Debra Grise, Murlan Grise, Lin Hokana, Freddy Dunn, Larry Dunn, Deja Schweitzer, Derrick Schweitzer, Kathleen Carey, Ann Guhman, Jeanette Blasdel, Fran Wilby, Lon Griffith, Doug West, Teresa Harris, Richard Boschee, Sarah Harris, Barbara Dennis, Mike Duvall, Kathy Duvall, Kathy McGann, Roger Green, Karen Goodfellow, Sarah Thomas Clayburn, Pat Valpaz, Amanda Heinritz.

Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions: Tracy Stevens for the Dept. of Homeland Security – Animal Evacuation Program training. Zach Renstrom from Washington County Water Conservancy District.

Guest Speaker: Zach Renstrom presented an in-depth review of Washington County Water Conservancy Plans. Many are now in place for the next 18 years. They include purchasing water shares, more water purification plants, reservoirs, landscape ordinances, impact fee assessments, water usage fees and limited golf courses. The future of water management looks promising with water for farming being a recognized part of what is needed.

Approval of March 2025 Meeting Minutes as published. Motion made to accept the minutes with two changes. Add: Freddy Dunn to the 3 Peaks Meeting with Lin Hokana. At the 3 Peaks Obstacle Course dispersed camping is allowed but not at the trailhead. Horses can stay overnight in the corrals.

Treasurers Report: Jeanette Blasdel presented the profit/Loss Report for March 2025 and the bank balances. Both were reviewed and accepted. Three disbursements were approved: Care Youth at Falcon Ridge, Wipes and Cleaner for the St. George BLM office and rocks for Three Peaks Equestrian area.

Old Business:

Pine Valley Lin Hokana reported that he has spoken with Braden and there's no progress at this time due to staff vacancy. He checks in weekly. They are still in favor of BCHU adding more corrals.

600 S Hurricane No changes can be made. If you go further east there is a stepover. We need to request that the city create a parking area by the step over. The stepover further west has been removed.

Brochure Stickers Freddy Dunn reported that stickers for the BCHU Brochures will fit. The purchase of 500 stickers was approved.

Lin Hokana and Doc Johnson attended the two-day training session for Emergency Evacuation of Animals, hosted by Washington County Emergency Management Services. This was the first step in setting up protocols and procedures. It's a work in progress.

New Business:

Public Lands: Lisa Caddy, BCHU Chairperson, was contacted by Southern Utah Alliance. They are going to join and create a Public Lands Coalition of Utah to protect water, lands and resources.

Amanda Heinritz and Lisa Caddy will be representing BCHU at the Utah Trails Conference in Kanab, assisting with a packing demonstration and Equine Partners in Service presentation. Thanks go to Gary and Heidi Siddoway from High Unitas for bringing everything, horses, mules, packs, etc. to Kanab and conducting the clinic. Lin Hokana will also attend, assisting the Cedar City BLM office with a presentation about the Three Peaks Recreation Area and the Bolander Mountain Trail Obstacle Course.

Education It was suggested that we have 2-3 education sessions a year vs monthly. This is to be discussed at a later date.

Chuckwalla Trailhead The trailer parking lot has been greatly increased in the south end. There are no dividers in this lot. At the restrooms, we suggested that a hitching post would be convenient for riders with a mounting block nearby. Use the main stepover. We recommend a horse entrance to the right of the stepover and a mounting rock. Signage is a possibility. The purchase of 10 more "scoop your poop" signs was approved with 4 to go to Snow Canyon State Park.

Confluence Park Tammy Engeness reported that we need to remove barb wire and trim brush to access the river on the NW Babylon side. It would involve 4-6 people and maybe 2 hours of work. She will contact Cameron Rognan to seek permission and Dave Robinson may help us.

Ride Calendar:

April 12-Snake Gulch, Fredonia Arizona. 11-mile round trip ride. Road is in good shape. Not recommended for a living quarters or very long trailer as parking is limited.

May 10-Harrisburg/White Reef (Need a Senior Park Pass or a volunteer pass. (We have passes just ask.)

June 7 is National Trails Day for those interested.

June 14-Pine Valley Campout and club ride.

August 9-Navajo Lake

Sept. 13-Bryce Valley Ranch campout and club ride from the ranch.

Sept. 12 club members can contact us to ride the Peekaboo Trail in Bryce National Park. We are going to reserve 20 spots so you need to let us know if you want one. All the reserved ride slots begin at 4 pm. It will be dusk when you are done. Please use Recreation.Gov for a reservation if you want to do another day; scheduling is now open

⚠️ Tragic Reminder ⚠️

This horse was left unattended with a halter on... and paid the ultimate price. 😞💔

Please, never leave halters on in stalls or pastures unless they are breakaway.

One simple mistake cost a life. Let this never happen again.

[#HorseSafety](#) [#BreakawayHalter](#)
[#EquineCare](#) [#HorseLovers](#)



This might possibly be the funniest cloud picture I've EVER seen! 😂😂😂



(Continued from pg 1)

We welcome these comrades and willing trail helpers to our homeland and will announce on our website the daily itinerary for any of our members to join on the rides. We will need to carefully stage our rides in Zion Park to no more than 6 riders at a time with at least 20 minute separation for each group, but that has not been a problem in the past.

Check your calendar and see if you can be available to join in on the fun and social opportunities this unique trail riding affords. We always love to make new friends with like-minded horse enthusiasts. If you are available to join in here... do avail yourselves of our milder warm weather to ride and acquaint yourselves with our beautiful trails. Enjoyment of our gifted equine buddies while traversing God's magnificent creations is a limited time offer, make the most of these special opportunities while you still can!

See you on the trails soon....John!

Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

May 7, 2025—St. George Community Building 6:00PM

Come and Participate in our Chapters Success



**CHAPTER RIDES: Every 2nd Saturday of each month
(unless specified otherwise)**

- **May 10th**— White Reef trailhead in Leeds. In saddle at 10:00A—Easy ride, Bring lunch

The trailhead is located on the north side of I-15 opposite the Harrisburg trailer park. Going north on I-15 take the Leeds exit then turn right onto the frontage road to Harrisburg, Turn right on road that goes under I-15, then right again after the tunnels.

This ride is being lead by Jeanette Blasdel. It has two water crossings and a bridge, nothing difficult to deal with.

REMEMBER: Dogs are only permitted on leashes anywhere in Washington County. We as Back Country Horsemen must set the example, so we thank you in advance for your compliance with the rules.



Sponsor's of the Month!



Chapter contacts

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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 BCHA 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 BCHA Southwest Chapter: Individual: \$35: Family: \$45