



# Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members



## From the Presidents Saddle



April is one of my favorite months! The desert is waking up and transforming into something truly spectacular with beauty in every direction. The sun shines longer and brighter; the weather of warm days with cool breezes makes for a pleasant horseback ride. There is no better time to observe the vibrant blooming colors and every little creature on the move.

Everywhere you look, the red rock landscape is busting into vibrant colors, painting a picturesque scene of nature’s defiance. Tiny desert flowers brighten the sand with

splashes of yellow, purple, pink, white, and red throughout the trail ride. The prickly pear cactus is blooming with bright magenta or golden yellow blossoms sometimes found growing between cracks of the lava rocks. Indian paintbrush’s red to orange spike-like flowers are seen growing amongst the sage brush. Then there is the sweet scent of orange globemallow in bloom. There are too many beautiful flowers lining the desert to list them all.

Zip! The wildlife catches our attention! Lizards are darting across the warm sandstone; squirrels scurry through the brush; jack rabbits ears pop out over the bushes and vanish on the run; and birds sweep low over the washes as we keep our eye out for the desert tortoise who moves slowly and quietly, blending into the earth. (Con’t pg 4)



*Hope your Easter was good!*

### NEXT MEETING

**Community Building**  
**See Page 7 for details**



### Monthly Ride!

**May 9th– Duvall’s Ranch in Enterprise**

**See Page 7 for Details**

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### Next Meetings May 6th

**Business 4:00PM at Washington County Library**

**Social 6:00PM at Black Bear Diner**



## BCH Ride to Harrisburg

This month was supposed to be a trip to Cedar City to ride the newly signed trail at Three Peaks Equestrian Center. But mother nature had other ideas as double-digit winds with even higher gusts were forecasted for the area. There is not a lot of cover from trees along the trail, so I think it would have been windy with lots of dust. No thanks...

Since I didn't see the White Reef Trail listed on the calendar, we decided to go there. It was a small group: Jeanette Blasdell on her new 4-year-old gelding, Cash; Tammy Engeness on her gelding, Spendy; Ann Guhman on her mammoth donkey, Dito; Justena White on her mustang mare, Mystery; me on my gelding, Chance and Steve Julian on his gelding rounding out our merry band.

The geology in this area is so amazing as there was color galore! Riding up through the draw we saw reds, greens, violet and white. At the top of the draw our 180-degree turn took us to the top where the views of Washington and St. George were stunning.

Then we headed down the back side and over the creek. Mystery did not want to cross this steep down to the creek crossing and Justena tried several times. So Justena dismounted and Steve Julian lead him over it. Twice. Three times.

Then it was onward to the box canyon which is where we used to go on this ride years ago. This canyon was so pretty. We followed a trail down most of it but you can ride in the wash as well. When we got to the end, we all found suitable rocks upon which we could enjoy our lunch and chat for a bit.

It's nice to get to know our fellow riders. When Larry and I moved here in 2000 from Colorado, the biggest adjustment was how rides ended. In Colorado, the norm was to have chairs so we could all gather around and socialize while the horses got to rest before being jumped into the trailer to go home. Everyone here has busy lives it seems and needs to go.

Luckily, we have a great opportunity next month when we are hosted by the Duvalls in Enterprise. A burger burn is always a fun way to end a ride. Hope to see everyone there!

And don't forget to RSVP by clicking [HERE](#) and then scroll down

Freddy Dunn

With the fresh new growth and increased wildlife activity, we're the guests out there moving through their beautiful, transformed landscape. We all know to keep our horses on established trails to protect the delicate spring plants- giving them space to thrive.

Thank you, Back Country Horsemen, for all you do to keep our trails open, our horses safe and our desert healthy.

Happy Trails, Tammy



## April 8th Chapter meeting at Black Bear Diner



The inaugural social chapter meeting at the Black Bear Diner was a big success with about twenty members attending along with members of the "Dixie Hoof Beats 4H" group whom our Chapter has recently sponsored.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Dr. Ron Johnson, a retired Vet who gave an excellent presentation on horse health along with money saving solutions for equine care.

**Make it a point to attend next months social event May 6th at the Black Bear Diner in St George. 5:30pm if you want to order food, meeting starts at 6:00pm**

**BCHU-Southwest Meeting Minutes April 1, 2026**

**Call to order:** Tammy Engeness called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions:** Jeanette Blasdell led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Members Present:** Tammy Engeness, Debra Grise, Lin Hokana, Freddy Dunn, Jeanette Blasdell, DeAnn Fieselma, Deja Schweitzer and Ann Guhman.

**Approval of March 2026 Meeting Minutes as published.** Motion was made and approved to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeanette Blasdell reported on the current treasurer's report and it was accepted. There was one expense of \$352.91 for misc. This included items such as trash bags that were used for the clean ups.

**Old Business:**

Tumbleweeds - Red Mountain tumbleweed removal has been completed.

- Harrisburg's parking lot has been cleared of tumbleweeds by another organization and the road graded so our work there is not needed.
- New chemicals were purchased by BLM to start spraying the trailheads and parking lots. We need to be more active with keeping the tumbleweeds cleared in the trailhead parking lots.
- Grants - Lin Hokana is still waiting to hear back on the grants we have applied for to see what we have available to put towards the work at Pine Valley.
- Guest Speaker - Geo Lopez has rescheduled to join the April board meeting. He is coming to talk about the work they are doing at Comanche Cabin in New Harmony.
- Santa Clara gate - Freddy is still working on it. A Sandbox was suggested as a fix to the gate.
- Tack Sale - Debbie reported that there is a parking lot south of the St. George library's lot that the city rents for \$250 a day. It is large and has shade and porta potties available Sat. Sept. 19 after the rodeo parade. It was decided because BCHA is going to provide liability insurance and pay for it next year for the clubs and their events to wait until 2027.

**New Business:**

Deja has found a free advertising app for our website to view a pdf file that we are going to try. She has renewed our website license for two years.

- We may consider moving our board meetings to the library as the rooms are free. Next board meeting is May 6 possibly at 4pm at the library with the social meeting to follow at The Black Bear Diner at 6 pm. This was motioned and passed.
- Amanda is working on calling past members hoping to get them to rejoin.
- Please RSVP for the social meeting on our website. Currently we have 15 for the first meeting. - Duncan Springs per DeAnn is in need of a clean up in the parking lot with a trim that includes some work on the trail. She has asked the forest service to hike it due to some concerns with the steepness and narrow parts. The footing is good. Wear Jeans and chaps for the work. Hand clippers, long clippers, small chain saws battery operated would be good. -Considering adding monthly recognition and an award for volunteer service hours.
- Conserve Southwest Utah is having another volunteer day at Pine Valley. TBA

- Open Space and Recreation Preservation Committee had another meeting, Lin attended. Talked about adding a city park with petroglyphs. Open Spaces is having a clean up April 25 at Garth Rocks.
- There has been some thought about Moes Valley becoming a state park.
- We may suggest that a clean up is in order at the Ranger Bart trail.
- Confluence Park needs the old barb wire removed, signage and a new swing direction on the gate near the cows and river. Scott Batron is now our contact for the Desert Reserve.
- Amanda Heinritz will be contacted about attending the Outdoor Recreation Summit in Cedar City Sept. 8-9 with our booth.
- The Black Bear Diner in St. George is where the new social meeting will be. This gives membership a less formal environment to socialize and have fun. The first membership meeting is Wednesday April 8. Please come at 5:30 pm to order your food and the meeting starts at 6 pm. Doc Johnson is presenting a talk on horse allergies.

**Rides:**

- April 11 Three Peaks Equestrian Trail & Obstacle Course-Freddy
- May 9 Duvall Ranch Enterprise Hosted by Mike and Kathy Duvall
- June 6 Duncan Springs Ride ( Trail work for National Trails Day)
- July SUMMER BREAK no meetings or rides
- August 8 Navajo Lake-Jeanette
- Sept. 12 Ford Ranch Horse Camp, Antimone-Fran
- October 10 Red Mountain-Lin
- November 14 Babylon-Deja
- December Annual Fundraiser auction and dinner

- **If you're going to be even 5 minutes late to a trail ride, please call the ride leader. We never want to leave you alone.**
- **We now require you to sign in at the ride and leave an emergency contact number of someone we can reach that day.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Minutes submitted by Debbie Grise



## Hop Valley

Recently I had the opportunity to catch a scenic ride over Hop Valley and snapped this pic as we flew over. I had ridden in the valley several amazing times, but to see it from above was special

Paul Sloane

# Calendar of Events

## CHAPTER MEETINGS :

**Business Meeting May 6, 2026—Washington County Library 4:00PM**

**Social Meeting May 6, 2026—Black Bear Diner, St. George 6:00PM**



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

**May 9th— The Duvall’s spread in Enterprise with Burger Burn to Follow. Bring a side dish! In the Saddle at 10:00 AM**

Directions: Take SR-18 north to Enterprise, turn left at the T (Sinclair Station), go 5 miles west to the Duvall’s. 2 Story yellow house with yellow out building a big barn. Their name is on a rock and house number 3272 is on a post.

**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.



## Sponsors 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 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 Southwest Chapter: Individual: \$35; Family: \$45**