

Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members



From the Presidents Saddle



At our last chapter business meeting we decided to survey the membership to see how the current meeting night meets members' needs. The results were reviewed and as of this month's meeting, September 6, 2023, we will start the meetings at 6 PM with the educational presentation(s) first. The expectation is this will be for an hour. The business meeting will follow; members are welcome and encouraged to attend but can feel free to leave.

Our chapter ride at Pine Valley on August 12th was well attended. See the ride report elsewhere. We did unexpectedly learn something valuable on this ride. I have carried a Somewhere satellite communicator whenever I trail

ride for the last few years. It is a subscription service and I had it because it can summon help in case of an emergency anywhere you're at, no cell service required. I had it with me on this ride. We had a need for medical assistance during the ride. Just a fluke of the circumstances, a member first tried calling 911 on their new cell phone. There was no cell service. The phone then asked, "Do you want to connect by satellite?" We did and by following the instructions that popped up, we were in communication with the Washington County EMS. We had help from first responders in about 30 minutes.

What I learned subsequent to this is the iPhone 14, all models, have crash detection and also emergency SOS via satellite. This last feature has sold me on switching from being a long-time Android user to the latest iPhone, the 14 Plus. The SOS feature is free to use for 2 years from date purchased. Apple has not yet said what happens after 2 years. With this safety feature I will no longer need a satellite communicator. Technology keeps changing and for once, improving.

Our chapter now has its own website. Check out www.BCHUsouthwest.org. Note, it is dot org, not dot com, (Con't Page 5)



NEXT MEETING

Community Building

See Page 7 for details



Monthly Ride!

Sept 9th Duvall's Ranch—Enterprise Burger Burn to follow

See Page 7 for Details

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September 6th

Meeting at the Community Bldg 6:00PM Educational 7:00PM General

Pine Valley Chapter Ride August 12, 2023

By Jeanette Blasdell

Saturday, August 12, our chapter ride took place in Pine Valley. Several of us had arrived the day before to camp, ride, and do some "connector trail maintenance". It was a good thing we did a little pre-riding as the canal trail was completely blocked by the work of an ambitious work crew! Luckily, Deja had packed her trusty saw, and Tammy, Deja, and I had come to work. So, with lots of grit, we managed to clear the trail for Saturday's ride. We then located the crew, chatted with them about our upcoming ride, and prayed they understood a word of what we tried to convey as the crew's English did seem to be limited.

Saturday morning started out beautifully. Trailers rolled in and it appeared we were going to have a nice turnout for our ride. In all, we had 15 riders for the canal/equestrian trail loop. Before we got on our merry way, unfortunately, once again in the distance, we heard the work crew sawing away. Three riders were sent ahead to make sure trail riders would not encounter another trail blockage, nor the extra challenge of approaching workers with chainsaws! Our three riders had success, the sawing stopped, and the trail was again passable. Our three scouts then joined us near Gardiner trailhead and all was good. The ride proceeded as planned. The canal was beautiful, though a little less shady after all of the trimming and clearing that had occurred. All of the horses did well with one another, they crossed the small stream in the canal with ease, and also went down the canal embankment easily, although it is a bit steep. After crossing the bridge, or walking through the water, we stopped for the "ride photo shoot" by Deja. The rest of our ride however, became a bit sketchy due to a mishap. (Luckily, we were able to get the help that was needed.)

Paul and Derek were our heroes when we finally made it back to camp. As usual, they grilled hamburgers to perfection and with the help of others laid out a variety of sides. Many spouses were able to join us for lunch, and we spent the remainder of the afternoon chatting and getting to know one another better. For those that camped, Pine Valley's annual BBQ was in the evening, so several of us had dinner at the community center to support the town. Many of our members then topped off the evening chatting by a campfire and enjoying the cool weather that Pine Valley provides in August. All in all it was a lovely day and we hope next year we will get even more riders and campers as it was really nice seeing the equestrian campground filled with equestrians!



We have a NEW Website!!! www.bchusouthwest.org



Highlights & Information found on our new website:

- Projects: Information and pictures from service projects provided by our BCHU members.
- Report Service Hours directly on our site.
- Join/Renew your membership with Back Country Horsemen of Utah.
- Interactive map of equestrian trails in Southern Utah with photos & trail descriptions.
- Calendar of Upcoming Meetings, Chapter Trail Rides & Events
- RSVP for Chapter Rides and special events.
- Newsletters.

Please take a minute to visit our website on your PC or mobile device and subscribe to stay connected with us and receive the latest updates on [trail](#) building projects, events, and volunteer opportunities.

What We Do

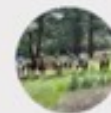
Our Chapter is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to preserving horseback riding and packing opportunities on public lands, educating riders to Leave No Trace, and promoting volunteerism among horsemen and the public. Join us in our mission to protect and maintain the trails and backcountry areas where we ride and recreate.



[Service Projects](#)



[Monthly Meetings & Educational Presentations](#)



[Monthly Trail Rides](#)

because we are an organization. Deja Schweitzer has done an outstanding job creating our website. It is still a work in progress but already has a lot of terrific features. Click on the tabs Service Projects, Monthly Meeting & Educational Presentations and Monthly Trail Rides. Here you can click on photos and get more information. There's a link to "join now" for new members. Other ideas are being considered and worked on. If you have an idea on how to make it better, let Deja or me know. This is exciting!!!

The September chapter ride will be at the Duvall's home just west of Enterprise. They have a trail laid out with various obstacles and odd things not typically seen on a typical trail ride. This is a great opportunity to expose your equine to things that might be scary, or not. We thank them for again hosting this event; a good time will be had by all I'm sure. Look for additional details forthcoming.

Happy Trails...Lin

Meeting Minutes – August 2, 2023

Call to Order: Lin Hokana @ 5:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions

Educational Presentation: @ 6:30pm

Jason Whipple or Tiffany Martineau, WCEMS – Keeping your cool in the heat.

Deja Schweitzer – New Chapter Website under development

Attending: Deja Schweitzer, Paul Sloane, Tammy Engeness, Freddy Dunn, John West, Marie Langness, Mel Langness, Ann Guhman, Steve Julian, Monty Hawks and Lin Hokana

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

Treasurer's Report: Jeanette Blasdell - Absent, no report

Old Business:

- Emergency Evacuation Plan – Lin: no update
- Utah Sales Tax Exemption status – Lin: The application was not received, a second time. Another copy was mailed today with signature required for deliver (tracking)
- Belt Buckle Sales – John: 14 have been sold and 6 more buckles have been ordered. BCHA just posted the information for purchasing a buckle on Facebook. Expect additional sales from this.

New Business:

- Ride Calendar for 2024: several suggestions were made, including over night trips. The Trail Ride committee will come back with a suggested list of rides for 2024.
- Business Meeting and Educational Session meeting time evaluation: It was decided to poll the members to see what start times and sequence (business meeting vs. educational session) would be most preferred. Freddy will send out the survey.

Committee Reports:

- Liaison to local public lands agencies: Lin Hokana /Freddy Dunn, Co-chairs
- Grand Canyon – Parashant National Monument - AZ
- This federal interagency office is staffed by employees from the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S National Forest Service. We will have a speaker from this agency in November.
- They are asking people to report and feral pigs or cows seen in the area.
- Gooseberry Mesa step over/gate – The step over has been corrected. This needs to be ridden before the chapter ride.

(Con't page 6)

- Exit 13 Renovation status report – The initial bid came in over the budget. The project was sent out for bids again.
- Annual Fund Raising/Membership Drive Dinner: Lin, Deja and John, Co-chairs: the date has been reserved with the high school, Friday, December 1, 2023. The chef for preparing the meats was discussed. Committee chairs will meet on Sept 6th after the chapter meeting.
- Membership – Laurie Clay, Chair (absent) no report
- Work Projects: Jeanette Blasdell and Deja Schweitzer, Co-chairs
- Zion NP Coal Pits Trail Improvement – John will survey the area when the weather permits to determine what work needs to be finished and set a date for another work project.
- Zone 6 New Trails – Lin: Meeting with the land managers on August 3 @ 8:30AM to tour the area to determine which trails will be best for equestrian use.

Adjourn: 7:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Lin Hokana

New County Building in St George

Some months ago I received a call from Kevin Lewis’s office (Greater Zion Recreation) requesting a photograph depicting equestrian use in the Pine Valley area to be included onto a display in the new lobby. They wanted a pretty generic photo that did not show close-up of the riders or detail that would grow out of date as the photo was going to be on display for long while.

I stopped in to check out the new lobby and it is really done well featuring our local habitat. In addition to our photo they also had a small plaque acknowledging the sources of the photo’s. They gave credit to the Back Country Horsemen of America.

Paul Sloane



Our Photo



Wall Display

Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

September 6, 2023—St. George Community Bldg. Educational 6:00pm—General 7:00pm



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

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

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 in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve and in Snow Canyon. We as Back Country Horsemen must set the example, so we thank you in advance for your compliance with the rules.



Hat of the Month!

Sported by: Derek Schweitzer



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