



# Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

August 2025



## From the Presidents Saddle



Summer is nearing end!!

Enthusiastic greetings to you all. What an eventful summer it has been with fires, trail access closings by government, new trail openings, developers closing access to existing trails, Federal government proposals to sell-off precious land etc....

BCHA is the preeminent organization nationally to preserve, address and influence public land authorities in decisions affecting our continued access to riding trails. It has never become more apparent to me of the influence we wield... or not by our participation in the processes or lack thereof.

We have many members who are our "eyes" and "ears" but we invite all to

become active in the process of speaking up for our continued access to trails. The Hurricane and Tocqueville development has recently exploded and now is threatening access to trails previously open without question. Please do keep us involved in the doings of your area or favorite trails with issues which may affect our usage or limit access.

On a much happier note, I'd like to report how BCHA networking can be a remarkable opening to new and exciting trail riding activities. Last spring on a Chapter ride at Red Mountain, we met several riders from SE Idaho area in the parking lot trailhead. By no small coincidence they happened to be members of the Teton Chapter of BCH Idaho. We made connections and invited them to ride along with us and invited them to a future ride at Snake Gulch near Fredonia, Az. Paul Forester, an active board member of the Teton Chapter did join us in our ride and we networked with Paul who happens to live in Driggs, Idaho at the base of the magnificent Teton mountains. Paul invited us to come ride with him in that area.. Well... My wife, Tammy and I did just return from riding a couple breathtaking trails in the Tetons...as directed by Paul and had a fabulous and "cool" experience thanks, in no small measure, to Paul's guidance and hospitality. (Con't Page 4)



**September 3rd**  
**Meeting at the Community Building 6:00PM**

### NEXT MEETING

**Community Building**

**See Page 7 for details**



**Sept 13th**

**Bryce Valley Horse Ranch Campout & Peekaboo Ride**

**See Page 7 for Details**

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## Ride Story

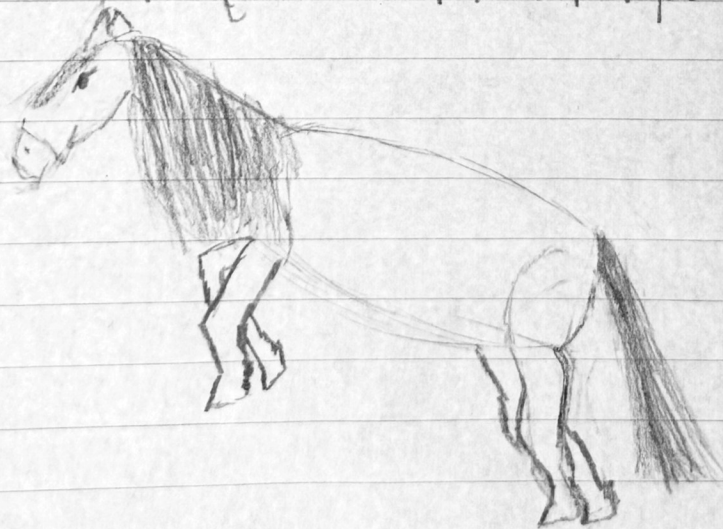
### Navajo Lake August 9, 2025

By  
Hazel Zetterquest (10 Yrs)

Navajo Lake Loop was a beautiful ride. I'm so lucky I got to come and enjoy it with everybody. The drive is also so pretty. Aside from the roadkill I was luckyish to see a run-over porcupine. I did love the lake, it's such a pretty blue. Everybody's horses were such beauties and most of the got used to the waves in the lake. I went a little to deep and my boots got wet. I'm so grateful I get this opportunity to ride horses and ride with the BCH everybody was really nice. I want to report there is a few fallen trees so please be careful if you're riding soon but have fun riding.

There were 6 horses. 6 riders. Deja Schweitzer, David Barnhurst, Hazel Zetterquist, Michelle Berthoty, Teresa Blair, and Reve Heretakis

Hazel zetterquist with MFT pony Firefly ♥









We have Chapters dotting all along the Rocky Mountain areas and beyond who are open and willing to assist us in our travels and enjoy a rich riding opportunity. My loud shout-out to Paul for his generous time and guidance to gorgeous trails in the Tetons.

You all have a great end of summer and enjoy the access to our fabulous trails !!

So long for Now. John

## Washington Dome

Jeanette and Lin attended a Zoom meeting with Sharice Walker and Laycee Webber from Avenue Consultants, who are working on a feasibility study for Washington City regarding recreational uses at the Washington Dome. Washington Dome is predominantly on BLM land.

For those of you who know and "recreate" at the Washington Dome, or would like to provide feedback about equestrian use there, please follow the links below to complete a short survey, and use the map of the area to drop a pin that you refer to in your comments, such as where there's a hazard that needs attention, where there's trash that needs removal, etc. This is a general public survey that has been in circulation for feedback.

The chapter has offered assistance with trailhead parking design, signage and help with identifying and clearing equestrian trails.

Members who know this area are encouraged to provide feedback - the more input, the greater impact our comments will have on their plans and recommendations back to Washington City. Please do this ASAP, it's easy and won't take more than a couple minutes.

There is a comment map on our website where anyone can leave feedback about the area: <https://www.washingtondome.com/>

There is a survey that asks about how folks have recreated at the Washington Dome: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/96YP7Y5>

Thanks





**BCHU-Southwest Meeting Minutes August 6 , 2025**

**Members Present:** Lin Hokana, Jeanette Blasdell, Debbie Grise, Tammy Engeness, Lorie Stobie, Dana Millsap, Natalie Law, DeAnn Fielselman, Tammy West, Ronald Johnson, Jarice Butterfield, Rick Schmalz (Zoom), Cherly ?, (Zoom), Deja Schweitzer

Meeting called to order by John West

Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions lead by Lin Hokana

June 4, 2025 meeting minutes as published in August, 2025 Newsletter were approved

**Treasurers Report:** Jeanette Blasdell indicated that there has not been a lot of expense activity other than a couple of expenses have increased – the BCHU mailbox (used very little) and the monthly meeting room rate has gone up. The organization still shows a positive bank balance.

**Old Business:**

**Hurricane Step over Letter of Response from Mayor Nanette Billings**— John sent a letter to the Mayor. She responded and indicated that this project will be addressed as soon as a couple projects are finished. There may be a trade with the City of Hurricane for some land. It was recommended that this continue to be pursued.

**Senator Lee's failed proposal to sell off federal Lands in UT and NV** – it was pulled from the bill. BCHU was instrumental in opposing this legislation.

**New Business:**

**Public Lands Committee report - Special Report on Pine Valley Mountain Fire Status**– Lin has been corresponding with Kevin Wright regarding the rebuilding of the Pine Valley equestrian facilities. Kevin did respond that grants and federal funding would be sought to rebuild the Pine Mountain trails and campground. It was suggested that the organization solicit Senators and seek federal grants and engage in fund raising. It was discussed that the BCHU SW Chapter be allowed to go into the area and assess needs in order to determine funding needs.

**Babylon Grapevine Trailhead Information and Requested Input** Natalie Law, member, shared her concerns regarding part of the access to Babylon through BLM land will become landlocked with the current development that is happening. She met with the developers to see if they would consider providing an access for equine to ride through the development to the BLM area. She requested that the BCHU Southwest Chapter support this effort via funding, planning, etc. She will notify John regarding the next developers' meeting.

**Lions Club September 20 rodeo Parade** – Deja asked members to respond on the website if they plan to participate in the SG Rodeo Parade on 9-20-25. The theme will be "one last ride; honoring the future". Two people will be needed to carry the banner – anyone willing to do so should contact Deja. It was suggested that the riders have matching shirts with the logo. More information will be forthcoming.

**Fund Raiser Kickoff Meeting** – The first annual BCHU fundraiser will be held September 3 at 5:15pm in the regular meeting room behind the Senior Citizen Center—Pine Valley Mountain will be the focus for fund raising this year. Large ticket item donations and selling raffle tickets were discussed.

**Washington Dome Trailhead Revision** – Lin – there will be a conference call on August 11 with Lin regarding this revision and needs. Jeanette shared that there is a section of land that used to lead to trails in this area. There is currently inadequate parking near the trails.



Lin indicated that input for this project from the organization will be provided.

**Ride Calendar:**

**Rule of Ride... If you're going to be even 5 minutes late...Please call someone... we never want to leave you alone**

**August 9 – Navajo Lake** -10AM in Saddle - Deja is leading the ride and write the article and send it to Paul Sloane by August 15

**Sept 13 – Bryce Valley Horse Ranch campout & Peekaboo Ride (20 reservations)** – It was proposed that the organization rent a large stock trailer for the Peek-a-Boo ride. A motion was made and approved to spend up to \$100 to rent a large trailer.

**Oct 11- Three Peaks Obstacle Course** – Jarice will contact the Falcon Ridge 4 H group to partner on service work at Three Peaks. This will be Halloween themed.

**Nov 8-** Cottonwood

**Jan 10, 2026-** Valley of Fire

**Announcements:** Long time BCHU SW Chapter Members Doug West passed away and Larry Dunn was seriously injured in an equine accident. He is currently in the hospital.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10pm

For those equestrians out there who have old halters wasting away in the barn, use them as holder... See more





## Calendar of Events

### CHAPTER MEETINGS :

Sept 3, 2024—St. George Community Building 6:00PM

Come and Participate in our Chapters Success



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

### Sept 13th Bryce Valley Horse Ranch & Campout

#### *Directions:*

Take I-15 north to Hwy 20, turn right and go to Hwy 89, turn right on 89 to Hwy 12, turn left on Hwy 12 (to Bryce Cyn), stay on Hwy 12 pass thru Tropic and the Ranch will be about 3 miles south of Tropic on the left. Travel time from St George is approx. 2-1/2 hours.

Ranch Ph # is 435-679-8228

**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

**President:** John West 678-361-0999  
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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