



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

December 2023



From the Presidents Saddle



Oh no! It's that four letter word "D I E T"! After all the good holiday treats and feasts it's time to focus on our riding priorities again. Getting that leg over the saddle might be a little easier if I didn't eat so much pie a la mode.

Hope you enjoyed the annual fund raiser and membership drive event. First time, at least is a long time, that we had it catered. DUBS BBQ had plenty of food and it I heard a lot of good comments. If you visit them at their restaurant on Sunset, tell them thanks for doing such a good job for us. For a recap of the event see the article in the newsletter.

The chapter officers all agreed to serve

another term. We have been a team for the third year. I thank them for continuing on; we seem to work well together.

Our January meeting will feature our member Doug West making a presentation about trails he's ridden. He has been to many interesting places and is a great story teller. I'm looking forward to his tales. We meet at 6 PM for the education session with the business meeting to follow.

This business meeting will be somewhat of a planning session for the year. We need to set a budget, make suggestions for the year's ride calendar, plan work projects and discuss how we might want to change things up.

Speaking of the ride calendar, the next chapter ride is planned for Valley of Fire. This is a more technical ride and one of my all-time favorites. Horse and rider need to be in shape and able to navigate a few technical sections. The scenery is spectacular and we will have an experienced trail boss who knows the area well. It will be a full days' ride what with travel, the ride and getting a bite to eat somewhere along the way.

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NEXT MEETING

Community Building

See Page 7 for details



Jan 13th Valley of Fire, Nevada

See Page 7 for Details

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January 3rd

**Meeting at the Community
Bldg 5:30PM Business
6:30PM General**

Annual Membership Drive and Fund Raiser
December 1, 2023 by Lin Hokana

It was another grand annual December “holiday gathering,” the Membership Drive with Fund Raiser. The weather was perfect, the decorations were festive, the food was scrumptious, the sponsors were generous, the people were friendly and all were ready for a good time. The way our chapter is set we have a very short business meeting first, to elect officers for the following year. The existing core all agreed to continue in their same roles for another year, thank you John, Jarice, Jeanette and Deja. I couldn’t do it without you.

DUBS BBQ catered the meal, brisket and turkey, mac and cheese, baked beans, cole slaw and roles. The chapter provided salad and members provided desserts. We projected 120 attendees and had food for that number. The final tally was about 96. We also fed the high school staff who set things up and took them down afterwards; they were super to work with. We had plenty of food so hope you got your fill.

The silent auction was run first with 105 items to bid on. What a wonderful selection. If you didn’t find something to bid on, you didn’t look hard enough.

People had six items to choose from for the raffle. Buy tickets and place them into the bucket for the item of your choice. Thanks, Scott Ford for taking on this job and also thanks to the two ladies who helped sell tickets.

Mike Duvall was our auctioneer for the thirteen live auction items. This is always the fun part of the evening and Mike lived up to the expectation, getting “just one more” bid for that “gotta have” item.

We don’t report money in our newsletter, you have to come to the chapter meeting to get the details. But I can say we were very successful and added to our savings. We are financially in terrific shape and ready and able to take on service projects.

See the full page of sponsors in the newsletter. Whenever you are in one of the businesses, tell them, “Thank you for your donation to the Southwest Chapter of BCHU.” We wouldn’t be the biggest and best chapter in Utah without them.

An event like this takes a lot of planning with tons of preparation before and on the day of the event. Deja Schweitzer took the lead and what an outstanding job she did. Deja and Debbie Grise were the team leads for coordinating people to contact sponsors. Numerous people jumped in to help with what seemed like an endless list of tasks to pull this evening off.

Thank you everyone.





Happy trails. Looking forward to seeing you on January 3rd.

(from the Presidents Saddle Con't)

It's the start of the year-end holiday season. Hope you have or had a great Thanksgiving. I know I'm thankful for all the friends I've made with our chapter and all the fun times we share. We recently lost one of our staunch supporters and such tragedy reminds me just how precious life is and quickly a turn-of-events can occur. Count your blessings; cherish each one.

I just attended a BCHU zoom meeting and see our chapter still has the most members and memberships, although we have a little less than last year. It's a continual process of recruiting new members and we have a lot of interesting people among us. Let's continue our good fortune by inviting others to join our chapter.

The December annual membership drive and fund raiser is December 1. We are having it catered this year (DUBS Barbeque) to ease the workload on members and give us more time to talk up the auction and raffle items. There will be some really nice items again this year so please come with an expectation of buying some quality items. More information about them coming soon.

We will have a very short business meeting – the election of officers for 2024. There is no chapter ride or chapter meeting other than this event in December. If you have not been to one of our fund raisers, plan on coming this year. It's a fun time. See the flier in the newsletter or our website www.BCHUSOUTHWEST.ORG. Be sure to RSVP so we can have order the meals. Members are no cost (family member = two meals) and additional meal tickets are \$15 per person.

As mentioned last month, our chapter discussed and approved increasing the annual membership by \$5.00. This puts us at the same rate as the other chapters in Utah. BCHA will be increasing the rate by \$5.00 the following year – a topic for discussion at the January meeting. We know the price of everything has gone up, but we are trying our best to keep our chapter affordable and a good bargain what with our monthly educational sessions, meaningful work projects and great monthly chapter rides.

Happy Trails... Lin



I wish my owner
would join
BCHA and learn
about safety

Sponsors of the Month!

Dr. Paul Gooch
Southwest Vision



Spencer Laub
**Laub's Feeding and
Cubing**



Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

January 3, 2023—St. George Community Bldg. Business 5:30—General 6:30pm

Come and Participate in our Chapters Success



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

January 13th - Valley of Fire, Nevada - In the saddle at 10:30A Utah Time—9:30 NV time (leave by 8:30 Utah time) bring lunch. Directions: Take I-15 south to the Logandale/Overton exit and turn left over I-15. Go 19.6 miles and turn right at Valley of Fire. Go another mile to the park gate. Travel time from St George should be 1-1/2—2hours NOTE: At the Park Gate pay the entrance fee, then turn around and come back to the parking area for the trailers. (They are in sight of each other)

NOTE: Due to the fact that there are about four rather technical spots on this ride we are asking that only members who are experienced riders (NO beginners) join us on this ride. Guests who have ridden with us in the past are OK providing that they are experienced riders.



Hat of the Month!

Sported by: Scott Ford



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: