



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

December 2024



From the Presidents Saddle



It's been a very good year for our chapter and as it comes to a close, I'm grateful to each and every one of you for being a member and helping make our chapter strong and successful. If you attended our annual membership drive and fund raiser you know there is a change in leadership for 2025. John West has been our Vice President for several years and was elected President. He and I are trading places; I'll be his back up in the Vice President role. We are fortunate in that Jeanette Blasdell will continue as Treasurer; Jarice Butterfield will continue taking meeting minutes, with backup assistance by Debbie Grise; Deja Schweitzer continues in the important

role of media relations and Paul Sloane can't be replaced as our Newsletter Editor.

Our annual event was well attended and fund raising was a success. Thank you everyone who came and participated in the three auction styles. It's our policy to not state the dollar amounts in our minutes and newsletters because scammers find that information and end up sending scam emails to contacts. We state the numbers in our monthly chapter treasurer's report.

For our January meeting we will have an educational presentation first, starting at 6PM on January 8, 2025. Our own Roshelle Bromley will tell us about her trip to Iceland, which might be titled "Horse Tails from Iceland." If you have Iceland on your bucket list, this may well serve as an orientation on what to see and do. Afterwards, John West will take the helm with the business meeting. The agenda will be sent out just prior to that Wednesday.

The January chapter ride is on January 11, 2025 at Rainbow Ravine at well .

NEXT MEETING

Community Building

See Page 8 for details



Jan 11th Rainbow Ravine

See Page 8 for Details

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January 8th

Meeting at the Community Building 6:00PM



BCH Annual Membership Drive and Auction

By
Paul Sloane

The 2024 Back Country Horsemen's Southwest Chapter annual membership drive and auction held on December 6th, was a great success! Thanks to the hard work of the committee lead by John West, Deja Schweitzer, and Tammy Engeness who then established three teams all who did a great job of organizing the event and putting together all the puzzle pieces required to make the event successful.

About Ninety-five people arrived eagerly awaiting the start of the evenings activities. This included guests from Conserve Southwest Utah: Sarah Thomas-Clayburn and Stacey Wittek; Our Auctioneer for the evening Roger Christianson. The room was laid out beautifully with the registration tables inside the front doors and displays filling the room with auction and raffle items for everyone to look over in preparation for the silent and live auctions.

The first order of business was a short meeting to conduct the election of officers. The new officers are: John West-President; Lin Hokana-Vice President; Jeanette Blasdell-Treasurer; Co-Secretaries Jarice Butterfield and Debbie Grise.

Lin Hokana presented symbolic gifts to John (*never seen a tortoise*) West, Deja (*Inspirational*) Schweitzer, Jarice (*ever so timely with minutes*) Butterfield, Jeanette (*energizer bunny*) Blasdell, and Paul (*Old Faithful*) Sloane depicting their contributions to the chapter.

Next was meal time with the buffet style serving provided by DUBS BBQ which featured salad, a choice of pulled pork or brisket, mac-n-cheese, baked beans, potato salad, and rolls. The many wonderful desserts were organized by Lorie (Clay) Fitzwater.

The main event of the evening is always the live auction and auctioneer Roger Christianson (*known as the voice of Dixie Football*) conducted a lively auction encouraging competitive bidding on items which maintained excitement in the room. The committee had acquired a large number of quality auction items from a variety of companies, sponsors and individuals in Southern Utah. These items ranged from high quality jewelry, original paintings, resort stays, 1,000 lbs of horse cubes, apparel, horse tack, etc. At the conclusion of the Live auction the winners of the silent auction and raffle prizes were announced.

This dinner/auction is the primary fundraising event of the year for the BCHU Southwest Chapter. The funds raised this year will focus on helping to further improve the Three Peaks Equestrian Park and involving the local 4H Equestrians. Thank you to all that participated.





Stacey Wittek Public Lands Program
Manager for CSU with **Lin Hokana**



Proposed BCHU State Meeting Agenda
16 Nov 2024, 9 am
Ramada
333 N Main St, Richfield, UT 84701
+14358966476

Old Business:

Minutes of 9 April Meeting
Financial Report
Membership Report

Membership is two chapters. Freddy wants a clear policy on who charges what.

Executive Committee Actions since Last Meeting (Consent Agenda)

Hi-Line & Hobbles approved for the \$500 state funds grant. To use the funds to acquire both a human and a horse first aid pack to take on rides and projects.

New Business:

Public Lands Report
Utah Trails Conference 2025 Kanab

Utah Outdoor Initiative
- update from each region

Nominations for Chair, Vice-chair
Succession of Phil to Utah National Director
Nomination for Alternate Utah National Director
New BCHU Official Address
Appointment for new Secretary

Next Meeting: Date and Location TBD

BCH Utah State Meeting Minutes
BCHU State Meeting Minutes
ZOOM
9 Apr 2024

Agenda

Old Business:

Minutes of 18 Mar Meeting - Approved
Financial Report - Approved
Membership Report

As of April 7, 2024

CHAPTER TOTALS	Ind	Fam	Pat	Youth	Total	2023	NEW Memberships	% of New
Bridgerland	9	8	0	0	17	24	5	29.41%
Canyonlands	16	19	5	1	41	42	4	9.76%
Central Utah	13	10	0	0	23	23	4	17.39%
High Desert	4	7	1	0	12	21	2	16.67%
HiLine & Hobbles	23	22	0	0	45	53	25	55.56%
High Uintah	4	6	0	0	10	14	4	40.00%
Mountain Ridge	36	26	0	0	62	77	9	14.52%
San Rafael	3	10	1	0	14	23	0	0.00%
Southwest	44	33	2	4	83	104	8	9.64%
Uinta Basin	2	4	0	0	6	7	2	33.33%
Wasatch Front	18	28	1	4	51	86	7	13.73%
Unaffiliated	0	0						
2024 TOTALS	172	173	10	9	364	1		0.00%
2022 Year End Totals	222	212	7	34	475	475		
Number of Members	222	424	14	34	694			

Executive Committee Actions
since Last

Mountain West Trails Conference
Attendance by Wayne Ludington
approved for reimbursement.
Approved \$500 Chapter Grant
Request from Southwest Chapter
for Trailhead signage.

New Business:
National Board Meeting recap
report

Notes from the 2024 National
Board Meeting
· Craig Allen was awarded the
Lifetime Achievement Award

- Wasatch Front Chapter was awarded a \$1,000 grant
 - Folks should check the Trail Maintenance information on the BCHA website under Education. There is a lot of good information there.
 - The National level is trying to get a Challenge Cost Share Agreement f\with the Forest Service to get partial reimbursement for the use of stock on our work projects.
 - Ideas for increasing memberships----
 - Newspaper articles (including social media)
 - Signs on Trail Heads bridges, etc stating who built and maintains the structure.
 - Packing Clinics and Fun days.
 - Bring a friend and trail rides.
 - There will be monthly Electronic Updates rather than printed newsletters.
 - States need to develop legal funds- It is expected that there will be a major Lawsuit involving e-bikes in the near future.
 - “Light on the Land “was rolled out to the National Directors. BCHA has a Trademark on this and more educational information (videos and printed) will be forth coming.
 - Chapters need to have Volunteer Agreements with agencies where service projects are being completed. Agencies folks can assist with this.
 - The \$5 dues increase was approved to take effect next year
- Bruce Kartchner book on Utah trails will be uploaded to BCHU state Trails page. Please respect copyright.
Following BCHA QR code created by Wasatch Front chapter. Please consider adding it to promotional material.



Equestrian Trails and Best Practices in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve

We here with the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve are concerned about the increase in all kinds of social trails between the Grapevine and Cottonwood trailheads. Hikers, bikers, and horseback riders have substantially widened the authorized trails, and many shortcuts, parallel routes, and unnecessary spur trails keep popping up. We need your help to keep this area beautiful, wild, and well preserved for native wildlife and scenic value.

The Reserve was created to protect the Mojave desert tortoise. As a result, it's essential that we reduce our impacts as much as possible to keep routes open and available to everyone. Shortly after the Reserve was established, a Public Use Plan was developed by the various local land managers to identify which trails would be authorized for non-motorized use. The trails depicted on the map here are those authorized for multi-use under the Public Use Plan.

Eventually, the BLM will complete a Travel Management Plan for the Red Cliffs NCA. Their plan may incorporate new or different trails on BLM managed lands, but until that time, we urge you to stick to authorized trails and ask that you share this information with other riders — particularly if you see someone traveling on an illegal trail.

The best way to approach this topic with another rider is to be friendly and genuine. Offer the information as a way of helping the visitor find their way if they're lost or phrase it as wanting to help them avoid possible citation by law enforcement. If the conversation becomes confrontational or aggressive, it's best to just move on and let them be.

We recognize that social trails are usually created without any malice or intent to flaunt rules. Many individuals are following directions by word of mouth or using Internet sources like All Trails to navigate even though either may not accurately describe the official trails. If you're ever confused about authorized routes, please check with the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve or the St. George Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management (contact info listed below).

Please continue to apply Leave No Trace principles to protect the desert habitat:

- Be considerate of other users
- Ride single file to avoid widening the trail
- Respect wildlife (including the desert tortoise)
- Remember water and forage are extremely limited in the Reserve
- If you bring hay with you to feed your horse, please make sure to use certified weed free products

Help us protect the Reserve by reporting off-road vehicle use, aggressive dogs, poaching, vandalism, or other illegal activities to county dispatch at (435) 634-5730. We thank you for sharing stewardship over this beautiful area we call home: please help and encourage your fellow equestrians to do the same.

Contacts

Red Cliffs Desert Reserve: (435) 301-7430, info@redcliffsdesertreserve.com

St. George BLM Field Office: (435) 688-3200, utsgmail@blm.gov

worth it, though; a ride that perhaps none of us has been on before. This is about 2 hours from St. George so you'll need to plan on getting up early and getting home late. It will be After three years of being the chapter president, I look back at the time with joy and gratitude. The reasons are many but include making contacts with our public land managers, learning the details of the Norther Corridor Bypass, getting to know our members better and ultimately – help making a difference with keeping our trails open and accessible. I had the support of a wonderful group of people who really are the ones who deserve the credit for accomplishing all that we have done. And for that I sincerely thank you.

Happy New Year and Happy Trails... Lin

'Lin' Thanks for all you have done!



Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

January 8, 2025—St. George Community Building 6:00PM

Come and Participate in our Chapters Success



January 11th Rainbow Ravine In the saddle at 10:00AM

Directions:

Take the Glendale, Moapa, SR168 (that's the exit just passed the Logandale exit which you take when you are going to Valley of Fire). Slow down for the exit and then make a left-hand turn to go to State route 168. You will turn right onto state Route 168 and go 2.6 miles turn right on Meadow Valley Road (just before you go over the railroad tracks). 7.8 milled on pavement the continue straight on the dirt road for 2.1 miles. Just passed the closed road sign you make a right hand turn and follow the gravel road to the parking area.

The complete ride is 10 miles long and takes about four hours. There is a narrow, 1 mile out 1 mile back, section that some riders may choose to not do. There will be someone to lead those that skip the narrow section and take them to the petroglyphs.

Easy, fairly flat, decent footing. Colorful mud hills and erosion formations. An old stone cabin and incredible petroglyphs.

If you want to ride the narrow section, your horse must be good with confined spaces, tumbleweeds, and some easy scrambling. No dogs in the narrow section.

Sponsor of the Month!

Hurst Stores Lin & Chad



Chapter contacts

President: Lin Hokana 209-790-9022
BCHU.southwestpresident@gmail.com

Vice President: John West 678-360-0999
johntaylorwest@gmail.com

Secretary: Jarice Butterfield 805-368-2132
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Media/Public Relations:
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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