



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

December 2025

From the Presidents Saddle



Year-end activities are normally a furious pace to get everything done and to celebrate wonderful holidays with family and friends. Perhaps even getting some rides worked in as our mild weather is so conducive to being outdoors is a priority as well. One major priority for members of our Southwest chapter needs to be to remember and thank our generous sponsors by faithfully shopping and referring business to them whenever possible. Also remember to ask for a manager to express thanks and to share you and we are faithful to them as sponsors of our outdoor causes. I do this often and find the vendors are ready to continue their sponsorship

and usually say they are happy to support our mission. It is surprising how a small but targeted thank you seems to mean so much to them.

Our tireless and faithful Chapter officers deserve our support and appreciation as well (I can say this as I am leaving for a year). The effort to host our auction/annual dinner as well as coordinate with public land groups and discharge duties as treasurer and secretary and Newsletter publisher etc... adds up to a lot of donated labor and hours. I am always offended by local equestrian riders who choose not to join our chapter for whatever reason. They enjoy the benefits of our organizations efforts to keep incredible riding trails open and available while they sit back and lazily ride on BCHU's reputation and unending devotion to continue lobbying for same. Please do explain to them a checkbook member to our chapter is absolutely welcome and we need the numbers to be large and continued in order to speak with a voice of influence. Your support is VERY important .



NEXT MEETING

Community Building
See Page 5 for details



Monthly Ride!

January 10th

Three Peaks loop
trail

See Page 5 for Details

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January 7th
Meeting at the Community Building 6:00PM

(Con't Page 5)

Chinese Year of the Horse



❖ 'Twas the Night Before the Auction ❖

BCHU Southwest Edition

'Twas the night before the auction, and all through the hall,
The members were bustling, preparing for all.
The banners were hung, and tables setup with care,
In hopes that our members soon would be there.

With over fifty sponsors and the donations piled high,
The generosity of our donors brings a tear to my eye,
The tables were dressed in their decorative best,
As raffles and auctions brought joy to each guest.

The scent of Dubs BBQ filled the room with its cheer,
A delicious feast for all hungry guests who came near.
Over one hundred gathered, mingling with friendship and pride,
Their charitable wallets swung open wide.

Laughter and bidding rose up in the air,
As Roger Christensen, lively auctioned with flair.
Paddles went up, and the totals climbed too—
Thousands was raised, thanks to supporters like you.

New board members were chosen, the chapter renewed,
Fresh energy joining the seasoned and true.
And with hearts full of purpose, one mission stood tall:
Rebuild Pine Valley Campground, an area loved by all.

When the final item was raffled and the night reached its end,
We cheered for our chapter, each neighbor and friend.
And with gratitude glowing, we welcomed with delight
Sweet Tammy Engeness, our new president bright.

So here's to the horses, the mountains, the trails,
To the volunteers' efforts that never do fail.
To a night full of giving, of laughter and light—
BCHU Southwest rode strong through a magical night.





New Officers for 2026



Dinner is served



Desserts by Jeanette



Enjoying the meal and friendship



Let the Auction begin !



Plenty to choose from



Three Peaks Loop Trail

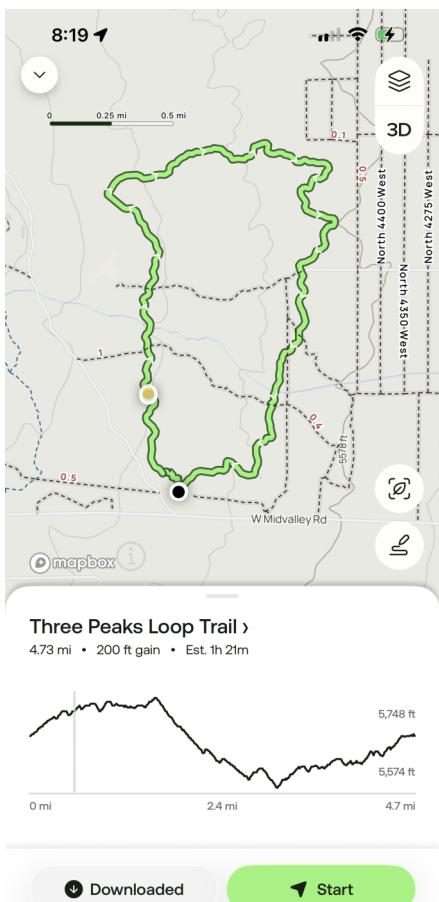
By Lin Hokana

Great news, by friends. The BLM just cut a loop trail at the Three Peaks Equestrian Obstacle Course. I rode this on a pleasant December Sunday and it was wonderful. This was an easy 4.73-mile ride with little change of elevation. It is a loop, starting and ending at the northwest and northeast corners of the fenced in area of the obstacle course; you can go clockwise or counterclockwise. **Woohoo**, this is a trail without rocks, which made it inviting to go faster than a walk if and when you like. It was made using a skid steer and a brush hog so it was easy to follow. The trail crosses a dirt road several times (where they go I don't really know) so signage will be installed to delineate it as an equestrian trail.

We need people to get out and ride the trail to help establish it with hoof prints. It took me 1 hour and 21 minutes to make the loop, with some jogging alternating with walking. Besides the usual jack rabbit, I saw a coyote meandering among some trees. It was interesting to see what the equipment exposed - empty beer cans here and there. I wonder how many are scattered throughout the huge expanse of BLM land. And why? Bring a bag along and help remove them when you can, no pun intended.

This site is truly a unique and special feature so let's make use of it and think of what will further enhance its attraction. Water spigots next to the two sets of metal corrals are in the plans. One cannot camp right at the obstacle course but since it's BLM land, dispersed camping close by is allowed.

Come check out the new trail. Happy trails...



Trail 1



Trail crosses road



View from trail to obstacle course

Membership is a powerful voice even if you cannot spend a lot of time in support of our cause at this time.

So for now at the end of 2025 please do continue on supporting the cause with whatever level of support you can. Cheerfully encourage our leaders and volunteer to serve whenever possible.

Until next time.... So long!!! John



there's legislation pending to prohibit future use of the round hay bales that we see so often in farmers fields.

Apparently animal nutritionists are concerned that cattle can't get a square meal from a round bale ...

Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

January 7,2026—St. George Community Building 6:00PM

Come and Participate in our Chapters Success



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

January 10, 2026—Three Peaks Loop Trail (See page 4 for details)

Directions: Take I-15 Exit 59, turn right onto Utah highway 56 and head west 1.8 miles to 3100 W, travel north for 5.5 miles and turn left onto 4800 N, travel 2.5 miles and turn right onto Three Peaks Rd, the trailhead will be on your right.



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 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