

Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members



From the Presidents Saddle



At last the New Year has arrived and we are ready to get on with a new start, finishing up with some old projects and ready to take on some new ones. I am thrilled with the 14 new members who signed up at the Dinner/Auction in December. We also had a potential member ride with us on the January ride. He is Austin McPhail who has taken an application to join.

I met John Ball, Special Agent, US Dept of Agriculture, Forest Service, Dixie National Forest. He is a law enforcement officer dealing with the

marijuana grows in the Dixie National Forest. When he started telling me about the number of grows there are in the forest I was frankly shocked. He has offered to do a power point presentation at our chapter meeting on the problem and the dangers we face while riding in the mountains. We discussed this at our last meeting and agreed it would be a good idea.

Vic Middleton, our new Vice President is already on the ball. Vic took it upon himself to add mat'l the south stepover at Red Mountain replacing the sand that had eroded away. Thanks Vic.

Happy Trails,
Paul

NEXT MEETING:
th 6:30PM
Community Building
See Page 7 for details



February 11th
Chuckwalla

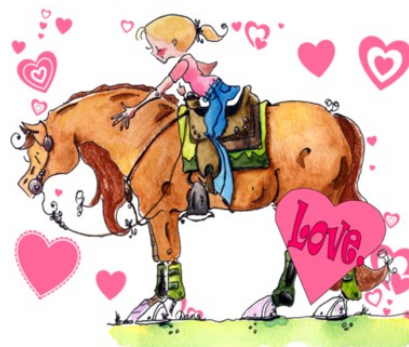
March 11th
Snow Canyon



Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Ride Story	2
Ride Pictures	3
"How Smart are Horses	4-5
Meeting Minutes	6
Calendar—Hat of the month	7
Membership Application	8

February 14th
Potluck and meeting at
the Community Bldg
6:30PM



Happy Valentines Day!

BCH Ride at Elephant Arch

January 14, 2017

By

Paul Sloane



With the December layover behind us, fifteen riders saddled up to kick off the first ride of 2017. The horses had kicking up their hooves on their minds as we headed out towards Elephant Arch on a brisk cool and slightly damp morning. Arriving for the ride was Pat Matthews, Jodi Blatter & granddaughter Lucy Bromley, Ayden Morrow, Dana Millsap, Larry Bell, Roshelle Bromley, Judith & David Mayfield, Paul & Alice Sloane, Ann Guhman, Maria, Harris, and Allison Owen. Our ride leader for the day was Roshelle Bromley.

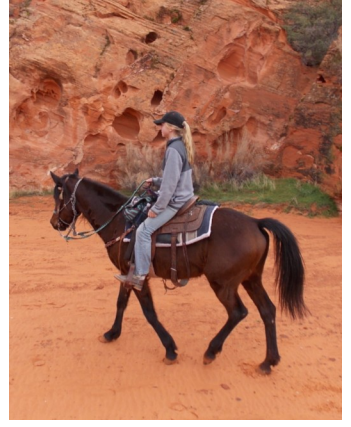
I was looking forward to the ride. As hard as it is to believe after being a BCH member for thirteen years or so I had never been to Elephant Arch. The beginning of the ride is not much but a dirt road that takes you to the stepover at the Desert Reserve boundary. After you cross the stepover you continue north to Bone Wash where you turn right and follow the trail to Elephant Arch. The sandy wash was welcome as it started taking some of the spunk out of some of the horses and of course other horses figured it was a better reason to show off their spirit.

Once we got further up the wash the scenery started to change and different rock formations became quite interesting and enjoyable to ride through. Soon we left the wash bottom and started gaining some elevation on the trail, again winding through rock formations and up/down through ravines and finally a climb up to the vantage point. The view of Elephant Arch is nestled in amongst very large scenic rock formations.

After viewing the arch the group broke up into three groups. Roshelle and her gang of Go fast girls took off for a much longer adventure. Some riders just wanted to return to their rigs and Alice & I stayed to have lunch and rest.

It was after this departure that bad things began to happen. Alice had a bad accident when she came off her horse while trying to remount at the stepover and ended up in the ER with a broken nose and a concussion. She spent the night in the hospital under observation. She is doing much better now. Jodi Blatter was videoing another rider when the horse she was riding decided to be a rodeo horse and Jodi ended up with a couple of cracked ribs. One other rider had to bail after her horse decided that a roll in the sand would be fun.

For Alice and I it turned out to be a very long day but everyone had a great time and I still can hardly believe that it took me so long to enjoy this ride. Looking forward to returning again.



How Smart Are Horses?

Dogs are celebrated everywhere these days for the [clever things](#) they and their brains can do, and the [science of dog cognition](#) continues to soar in popularity.

As a cat person, I can't help but add that [cats, too](#), show off their savviness for science.

Now, some cognitive scientists are asking about another domesticated animal companion that's been comparatively neglected: horses.

Japanese scientists Monamie Ringhofer and Shinya Yamamoto of Kobe University have [published online](#) in the journal *Animal Cognition* the results of the first research to investigate how horses respond to the state of knowledge or ignorance of their human companions. The results are impressive.

Ringhofer and Yamamoto designed research to test eight thoroughbred horses in a paddock at Kobe University's equestrian club. The horses watched as a research assistant put a carrot in a food bucket. The bucket wasn't accessible to the horses, only to a human caretaker. In one experimental condition, the human caretaker witnessed the food going into the bucket (knowledge state). In a second condition, the caretaker did not watch as the carrot was placed into the bucket (uninformed state). The horses' responses were videotaped and compared between the two conditions.

The horses used more visual and tactile signals with the uninformed than the informed caretaker. The horses increased how much they looked at, touched and/or lightly pushed the ignorant caretaker (compared to the caretaker in the know) to get them to realize where food was hidden.

The authors acknowledge that follow-up studies are needed. It's an important result, though, because it points not only to advanced cognition but also to flexible cognition, with the horses adjusting their communicative behavior to the humans' knowledge state.

"This study is the first to show that horses possess some cognitive basis for this ability of understanding others' knowledge state in social communication with humans," Ringhofer and Yamamoto write.

Some non-human primates do this but, of course, horses are evolutionarily far more distant relatives of ours than chimpanzees. So what about dogs: How do they respond?

Ringhofer and Yamamoto write that in a similar experiment carried out by other researchers, dogs didn't do what the horses did — they didn't look at, touch or push their caretakers. Instead, the dogs alternated their gaze between the uninformed human experimenter and the hidden food's location.

In other words, the dogs directed the humans' attention also — just in a different way. It could be that it's, perhaps, in keeping with their different evolutionary history as herding, hunting, service and rescue animals. Each species has in its own way fine-tuned a skill leading to effective communication with humans.

"For most of the history of horse domestication, we've assumed that communications between humans and horses was unidirectional. Humans order. Horses obey. But in this study, we see that communication could be a two-way street. Horses do try to communicate with humans. Most of us just don't try to learn their language."

Williams pointed out that social signaling is important among horses in a herd:

"Horses are highly social animals. In a natural state, they depend on each other for information that provides for the survival of the whole band. If a predator, for example, appears on the horizon, one horse immediately alerts the others through a wide variety of signals. Snorting, pricked ears and stamping are only a few of these signals. There's no reason why they wouldn't try to communicate with humans as well."

Lead researcher Ringhofer said, via email, that not all the horses responded during the experiment in the same way. This is interesting and also expected: Animals' behavioral tendencies and personalities vary.

Most horses used visual and tactile signals to request the [attention of the] caretakers. However, two horses seemed to use extra behavior. They stood near the caretaker and located their face in front of the caretaker (very close to the caretaker's face). Then, both of them finally hit the caretakers' face with their face," Ringhofer said.

Ringhofer couldn't determine if the face-hitting was accidental or purposeful on the horses' part, and so didn't include it in her analyses. But she does wonder if those two horses might have come up with quite a startling way of social signaling!

Direct comparison of intelligence across species doesn't work well, because there is no single standard of what "smart" means across differently evolved animals. Asking if horses and dogs are equally smart, then, doesn't really make much sense.

The bottom line here is all about the horses themselves.

Together with [other recent research](#) showing that horses can use symbols to communicate with humans, this new study tells us that horses think carefully about what's going on around them.

Barbara J. King is an anthropology professor emerita at the College of William and Mary. She often writes about the cognition, emotion and welfare of animals, and about biological anthropology, human evolution and gender issues. Barbara's most recent book on animals is titled [How Animals Grieve](#), and her forthcoming book, [Personalities on the Plate: The Lives and Minds of Animals We Eat](#), will be published in March. You can keep up with what she is thinking on Twitter: [@bjkingape](#)



BCHUSW Meeting Minutes

The **BCHUSW** chapter meeting was called to order on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at the St. George Community Center.

Present were: Paul Sloane, Keith Christenson, Vic and Jan Middleton, Kathy Niedpzh, Kathy Duvall, Virginia and Rick Olofson, Chuck Schlicht, Chris Hall, and Jeanette Blasdell.

Minutes: A motion to accept minutes as published in the newsletter was made and approved.

Treasurer' Report: Paul briefly shared the treasurer's report on Freddy Dunn's behalf but a motion was not made to accept as it was just a verbal report and no copies handed out.

Old Business:

- Work is still in progress to coordinate a ride/work project at Pine Valley with the Nevada BCH group. Paul has not had success communicating with their representative, so Kathy Duvall will contact the member they met on the Valley of Fire ride.
- Water tank project history and photos were shared with present members.

New Business:

- Paul met with John Ball, Special Agent USFS. After viewing a map designating areas of illegal marijuana cultivation in Pine Valley, Paul suggested we designate one of our meetings for John to come and talk with members for equestrian/hiker safety. Members present agreed.
- Due to erosion, the south stepover at Red Mountain needs to be filled. Jan and Vic Middleton volunteered to refill it with cinder.
- A motion was made and passed to reimburse Paul for \$33.36 and one for \$10.46. The purchases were for cardstock and concrete respectively.
- Thank you cards were sent to establishments that made donations for our December auction. Paul brought a sample for members to view.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 .

Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Blasdell



Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

- **February 14th**—St. George Community Bldg. 6:30pm; Potluck 7:00pm

DON'T FORGET TO BRING SOMETHING FOR OUR MEETING:

Come and participate in our decisions for the chapter!



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

- **February 11th—Chuckwalla Trailhead** In the saddle 10 AM bring lunch. Chuckwalla is located on Hwy 18, 1/4 mile north of Snow Canyon Parkway (On the west side of Hwy)
- **March 11th—Snow Canyon from the North Overlook**—Burger Burn to follow ride!

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: Larry Bell



Chapter contacts

President: Paul Sloane	632-7642 psloane@infowest.com
Vice President: Vic Middleton	879-9597 vicjan@skyviewmail.com
Secretary: Jeanette Blasdell	818-415-1305 jzblasdell@gmail.com
Treasurer: Freddy Dunn	652-4892 freddydunn@gmail.com
Newsletter: Paul Sloane	632-7642 psloane@infowest.com
Rides: Roshelle Bromley	313-7518 romanrider@gmail.com
Website: www.bchu.com	—Click on Southwest link

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