



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members



From the Presidents Saddle



Governor's Office of Economic Development who has Five Million dollars of grant funds for recreational trail projects. I showed them pictures of the water crossings and explained our objectives. They indicated that this project would fall within their criteria but we need to define the project in detail and determine the costs and feasibility (See pages 4 & 5). We will be working hard to get this accomplished, it will be a great project for our chapter and will benefit many.

Just a reminder for those of you that have not renewed your membership for 2018 to please take a minute to do so. So far we have 56 members who have renewed. Remember it is your support that allows BCHA to do the awesome work they do for all of us.

Speaking of things to do, I have been working with Joe Rechsteiner, District Ranger for Pine Valley to determine if we can construct two new bridges over the two bad water crossings on the trail from the equestrian campground to the Whipple Trailhead.

I attended the Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant workshop sponsored by the

Congratulations to our Susan Hansen who has accepted the position of State Secretary for BCHU. We now have a chapter member serving at both the State and National levels. It must be something in the water here!

Happy Trails and remember to renew!

Paul

NEXT MEETING:
March 13th 6:30PM
Community Building
See Page 8 for details



March 10th
Gooseberry Mesa

April 14th
Silver Reef

May 12th
Duncan Springs

See Page 8 for Details



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March 13th
Meeting at the Commu-
nity Bldg 6:30PM



BCH Ride at Gunlock Reservoir

February 10, 2018

By

Paul Sloane

Thirteen riders arrived at pump house 7 where we parked our rigs and prepared for the ride on what looked like a beautiful day, but you cannot always tell a book by it's cover (*more later*). Arriving today were *Freddy Dunn our ride leader and Larry Dunn, Keith Christensen, Jeanette Blasdell, Chuck Schicht, Chris Hall, Richard Boschee, Susan Hansen, Dennis Peters, and three riders who were trying us out for the first time Kathy Rice, Ryan Jones & Jason Jones.*

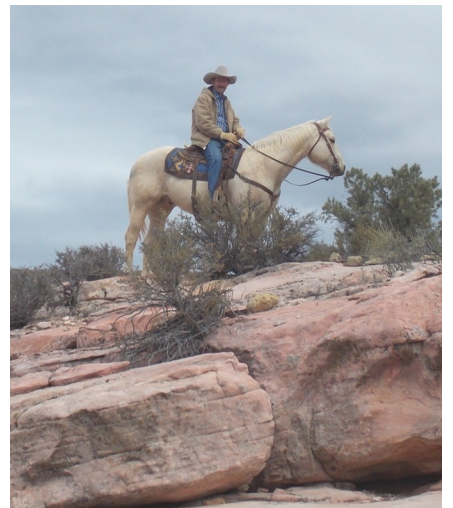
The ride started at the pump house then crossed the highway to a road that leads down to the river bottom. This portion of the ride is ever changing depending on the water flow activity during the previous winter season. This time we were confronted with more over growth of river bottom willows which required some brush bustin'. Once we were clear, we proceeded as planned on the river bottom then up the hill on two track roads until we got the the dam's spillway and we turned left and soon started making our own trails as we saw fit. This section of the ride has great red rock formations mixed in with Juniper trees and is fun to ride through. Once we reached the plateau we worked our way along a barbed wire fence built by the ranchers of the past dodging large Cholla cactus plants which are abundant in this area. Luckily no one came in contact with one.

Eventually we came to an open gate in the fence and again turned onto another two track road which lead us into a ravine that is exceptionally pretty to ride through featuring rock formations in a rainbow of colors. We stopped at our favorite lunch spot, tied up our mounts and found a good rock to sit on and ate our lunches.

This ravine takes us down to the lakes edge where we stopped and watered our horses. From there it is a scramble up the hill until we reached the top and picked up that two track road again which takes you along the ridge top and once again down to the lakes edge. It was about this time when it became obvious that the beautiful day was about to change. The blue skies turned black and the wind began to blow and the hats began to fly. It was a race to get back to the rigs before we got dumped on by the rain which was sure to arrive.

We did beat the rain back but the wind continued to increase its velocity. Everyone was happy to get back to our rigs and stuff their mounts into their respective trailers and head out. We did not have the opportunity for the usual post ride visiting but three of us stopped at Veyo Pies where Richard Boechee treated us to a slice of pie. What a Guy!





Trail crossing #1

This is the first water crossing heading east from the Equestrian camp grounds. Neither horse or hiker is very fond of crossing here. Many horses simply refuse to cross. A simple bridge would be a solution.



Note dams that hikers are creating to use to get over the water, creating larger pools that the horses do not like. A bridge would eliminate the dams and pools as the water would just flow through



Pine Valley Trail Crossing #2

This is the second water crossing heading east from the Equestrian camp grounds, located about 300 yds south & east of camp site #23 at Crackfoot. The approach to the crossing is both dangerous and difficult for most horses. They must step between two large rocks and navigate a steep step down both at the same time. Plus the approach to the water is a side trail on a steep slope. Many a horse has refused this crossing



Bridge Design

BCHUSW Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2018

The **BCHUSW** chapter meeting was called to order February 13, 2018 at the St. George Community Center by President Paul Sloane. In attendance were: Paul Sloane, Vic Middleton, Lin Hokana, Keith Christensen, Judith Mayfield, Dennis Peters, Susan Peters, Pat Wilson, Richard Boschee, and Jeanette Blasdell

Minutes: A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes as posted in January's newsletter.

Treasurer' Report: Judith Mayfield presented the Profit & Loss Previous Year Comparisons. Our total income is \$2,951.50 as compared to last year's total of \$3,179.50. Our net income at this time is \$2,519.14 as compared to last year's 1,090.21. Our total assets, as of January 31, are \$7,553.22 as compared to \$7,149.66 a year ago. (Judith still needs to deposit \$300 for state dues.)

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the presented report.

Membership:

Members had the opportunity to renew at December's dinner and those not present were sent invoices. Thus far we have 56 paid members. The phone numbers of the remaining unpaid members were distributed to make one more attempt.

Old Business:

- BLM replaced the rails at Red Mountain without needing our assistance.

New Business:

- A motion was made, seconded, and passed to allow Paul to purchase a camera in the \$90-\$150 range.
- Zion National Park sent a letter discussing plans to increase park entry lanes. Paul will post it in our next newsletter.
- Parking near exit 13 may be compromised due to new homes in the area. Paul will look into the matter so we will know more about it.
- Footbridge project in Pine Valley will be followed up by Paul.

Ride Calendar:

- March 10- Gooseberry Mesa
- April 14- Silver Reef
- May 12- Duncan Springs

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:35.
Respectfully submitted by Jeanette Blasdell





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ZION NATIONAL PARK
State Route 9
Springdale, Utah 84767



IN REPLY REFER TO:
ZION I.A.2

January 30, 2018

Dear Park Constituent,

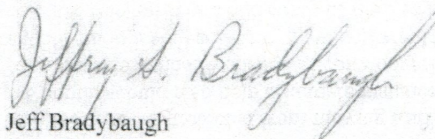
The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to redesign the Zion National Park (ZION) South Entrance Fee Station and adjacent roadway to decrease park entry wait times for vehicular traffic, reduce localized vehicle congestion, improve employee safety, develop a renewable energy source to sustain park operations, and replace faulty culverts to improve roadway conditions during weather events.

The proposed project would reconstruct the South Entrance Fee Station area by restructuring the immediate roadway to provide additional lanes of traffic, both entering and exiting the park. Additional fee booths, traffic islands, and an employee parking area would be incorporated into the design to accommodate the number of employees required at the entrance station to facilitate park entry and would also create areas protected from moving traffic for employees. An increase in the number and size of the fee booths would also help eliminate instances where employees enter the roadway, or rove, to expedite park entry demands. A shade structure covering the fee booths and vehicle entry lanes would also provide a platform to install solar panels which would fully sustain the energy needs of the facility. Finally, two culverts, one north and one south of the Fee Station, would be rebuilt to adequately capture and channel stormwater runoff thereby reducing the overall risk of roadway hazards in the area.

The NPS encourages your participation throughout the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. At this time, ZION invites you to help identify concerns and express any ideas or comments regarding the proposed project. To obtain additional information or submit a comment, please visit the NPS Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/zion>. Comments may also be submitted by writing to: Superintendent, Zion National Park ATTN: South Entrance Fee Station Reconfiguration EA, 1 Zion Park Blvd., State Route 9, Springdale, UT 84767. Please submit your comments on or before **March 1, 2018**.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,


Jeff Bradybaugh
Superintendent

Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

- **March 13th—St. George Community Bldg. 6:30pm**

Come and participate in our decisions for the chapter!



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

- **March 10th—Gooseberry Mesa (Apple Valley) In the Saddle 10:00AM, bring lunch—Great views of Zion Park mountains.**
Directions: Take SR 9 off I-15 east to Hurricane. At the east end of Hurricane turn right on 100E, then left on SR 59 to Kanab/Lake Powell, travel 12 miles to the Gas station in Apple Valley, continue for 2-2 1/2 miles and turn left on dirt road. Follow BCH signs to parking area

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: Jason Jones



Chapter contacts

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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