



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members



From the Presidents Saddle



Freddy Dunn and I attended the Back Country of Utah state meeting. Two topics may be of interest to you. Out of the 11 state chapters, eight have fewer members than last year at this time, including Southwest. We can and need to recruit a few more. And according to the Volunteer Hours Report, the total dollar value for the state's volunteerism for 2023 totaled \$790,066. That is an impressive figure that helps underscore the value of BCHA's contributions with federal regulators.

As I'm writing this, we are formulating plans for a few easy work projects. We have people willing and able and plenty of funds to buy materials so if you see something while our riding that needs attention or improvement, let a chapter officer know so we can take care of it.

We had 11 riders at the Valley of Fire chapter ride. This is truly one of the best rides of the year. I had not been there for three years and this ride was about as good as it can get. We just ran out of time to stop for ice cream in Overton. Oh, they are improving the road pretty much all the way from I-15 to Overton, which will be much appreciated.

Our educational session for February will be presented by Kristen Comella, Snow Canyon State Park Manager about the history and geological features of the park, among other tid bits of interest.

Happy Trails...Lin

NEXT MEETING

Feb 7th Community Building

See Page 7 for details



February 10th Red Mountain

See Page 7 for Details

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February 7th

Meeting at the Community Bldg 6:00PM Education business to follow



Happy Valentines Day

Back Country Horsemen of Utah – Southwest Chapter.
VALLEY of FIRE Group Ride 01/13/2024
By Aspen Rider

Our BCHA group welcomed the 2024 trail riding season in with an epic ride in Vally of Fire State Park, Nevada. It was clear blue skies as our group met around 10am near the East entrance, parking at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area welcome sign. Our group was 11 members strong. Our youngest rider today is Bryson Zetterquist on the handsome Buckskin Billy. Bryson's dad, Bryan "Z" Zetterquist, is riding the American mustang Willow. Lin Hokana, our chapter's President, is riding his chill gelding "Mr. T." Aspen Rider is on her little sorrel mare Penny. Julie Dunn (our newest member) joins us on her mare "Buttons" for their second voyage with our group. John West brought his foxy Fox Trotters Magie and Lacy so Monty Hawks could join in on the fun. Our Panguitch rancher members, the Hatch family, said they needed to come "defrost." Ron Hatch is riding his gray Quarter Horse. Tom Hatch is mounted on his beautiful Buckskin, and representing our groups' sole mule of the day: Travis Hatch is riding a unique colored/reddish mule. This pair will be in their element stepping down these rocks and today's many sandstone sections. Enter the smooth moving group: we are joined by John West and his friend Monty Hall on their Missouri Fox trotters. We are thankful for our trail leader Deja Schweitzer on the smooth, all terrain mare: "KissMe."

Valley of Fire consists of bright red Aztec sandstone nestled in gray and tan limestone mountains. The plant community is dominated by widely spaced creosote bush, burro bush, and brittlebush. Our riders and horses are conscientious to avoid the beaver tail and cholla cactus, which are also common. After getting past the vast amount of interesting sandstone, our first notable landmark is "Elephant Rock." There are several elephant shaped sandstone edifices, but the horses appreciate this one the most as it is a chance to stop and breathe after a sandy ascent. Next up is the chance to ride your animal through "El Portal Arch!" A wild west experience to be able to ride your horse through an arch of carved sandstone!

Today's ride consists of several technical sandstone sections along with a trudge through the sand wash. There is so much to see that it is practically a game of who can spy the next arch or interesting formation. Static rocks are not the only thing to spy among the sandstone. Scaling the red rocks are the iconic big horn sheep.

Those who have ridden this ride anticipate what is considered the "highlight" which is our lunch spot in "God's Bowl" or "Silica Dome." Those who have never seen this spot don't know that the best is yet to come. Our decent into this bowl gives the rider the view of massive amounts of white sandstone starkly separated by layers of red stone. It is an epic view as the animals rest and our members mingle for lunch.

In total our group rode 10.7 miles in 4 hours with 1,105 feet of elevation gain. Wild West desert views don't get much better than this! Lucky and few are we who get to experience this ride from the backs of horses. We thank our leader, Deja. She had the task to lead our group when the original leader had an unexpected issue at home that precluded him attending this ride. Deja led our group safely and directly through this rugged trail which is often difficult to visualize. We got some amazing photos and some epic memories from our January BCH Group Ride!

Happy Trails!



Chapter Meeting Minutes**December 2, 2023 and January 3, 2024**

People in attendance: John West, Deja Schweitzer, Monty Hawks, Lin Hokana, Ron Johnson, Keith Wheeler, Lilly Peters, Maggie Hatch, Kaylee Lamoreaux, Kacey Oar, Anne Guhman.

Tammy Engenes, Kathy McGann, Scott Ford, Blake Youd, Eliz Edger, Jeanette Blasdell, Dana Millsap, Fran Wilby, Steve Julian, Jarice Butterfield, L. Dunn

Call to Order: Lin Hokana @ 6pm

Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions

Educational Presentation: Doug West – Tales from the Trail

Minutes: Motion to accept/corrected November, 2023 minutes as published in the newsletter

December 2, 2023 Minutes

This was a brief meeting combined with the annual fund raiser.

The election of officers took place. After taking nominations from the floor, the current board members were elected to remain on more year. A motion made and carried to accept December minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jeanette Blasdell

November Budget Update: A lot of people have been registering on line which is a positive. Overall membership revenue has increased.

December Budget Update: The net profit from fund raiser was less than half of last year; fewer attending, fewer auction items and catered meal expense. 2023 attendance was 100, 2022 was 114. The expense for meals was greater than the revenue from renewed memberships; net profit comes from the auction. A motion made and approved to accept the November and December treasurer's reports.

Old Business:

New officer business cards – Lin – Officers are to remain the same

BCHA Comments BLM re. Red Cliffs Desert Reserve – Lin

Lin provided his input but it was not on behalf of the chapter. Rod Player with BAHA also submitted comments.

New Business:

Review of Draft Annual Budget for 2024 – Jeanette Blasdell presented a tentative draft budget with proposed categories. Keith Wheeler made the recommendation that the budget for the Zion grant be kept separate and expenditures against those funds come out of the grant budget (remove from the chapter regular budget). Other recommendations to expense category amounts were made. The recommended revisions were made and the proposed budget as presented is balanced. A motion was made to accept the proposed annual budget and it was approved.

2023 President's Annual Report to BCHU – Lin circulated a year-end report of all activities reported to BCHU. A copy was circulated via email to all members and at the meeting for members to review.

Chapter Venmo Account – Deja indicated that a letter needs to be to finalize this process; Lin will send it to Jeanette and Deja to send to Venmo.

Reminder: 501c3 annual IRS report is due by May 15 each year; treasurer or secretary to sign off

Annual Dues Increase @ January 2025 – Lin: FYI BCHA will increase membership dues by \$5 for 2025. Whether the chapter will absorb the increase or bump the dues will be determined later this year.

Committee Reports: Appoint Committee Chairs - Lin

Liaison to local public lands agencies: Lin/Freddy

Future corrals at Pine Valley/Meet with District Ranger Joe Rechsteiner – Lin: news article in St. George News described updates with filling vacancies. We still need to do a walk through of the Eq campground with Mr. Rechsteiner.

Zone 6 – GPS mapping of intended new trails – Lin: put on hold at this time.

Confluence Park fencing – Lin will find out the status of the livestock that had prevented use of the trails going northwest from the trailhead. Livestock is gone and the fencing to contain them is still incomplete.

Annual Fund Raising/Membership Drive Dinner: Lin, Deja, Debbie, Jeanette

Candy and Plaques Status – the candy and plaques have all been delivered to sponsors, as well as thank you letters.

Membership – We currently do not have a membership chair person. This position is open, an email to be sent out, asking if there's anybody interested and define the duties.

Newsletter– Paul Sloane

Social Media – Deja/Freddy

It was suggested that all communications sent out by email be generated from BCHU.

Work Projects: Jeanette Blasdell and Deja Schweitzer

Jeanette talked about stepovers. Some of the stepovers need sand added to them due erosion. She thought this could be an easy work project. Sand can be purchased by the bag and added to step overs in need. Please identify exact sites that need improvement.

Zion NP Restoration of Historic Trails – Lin; the year-end report has been submitted as required, but some data was not available from Zion NP. Work to finish could include Parking lot grading after more road base added and clearing brush at auto parking area at trail head.

Education: John West

February 2024 - Kristen Comella – Snow Canyon State Park

Ride Calendar:

A ride committee (Deja, John Jeanette, Max and Tammy) meeting is scheduled at Deja's work place on 1-17.

January 13, 2024 – Valley of Fire – Keith Wheeler
February 10 – Red Mountain –

Announcements:

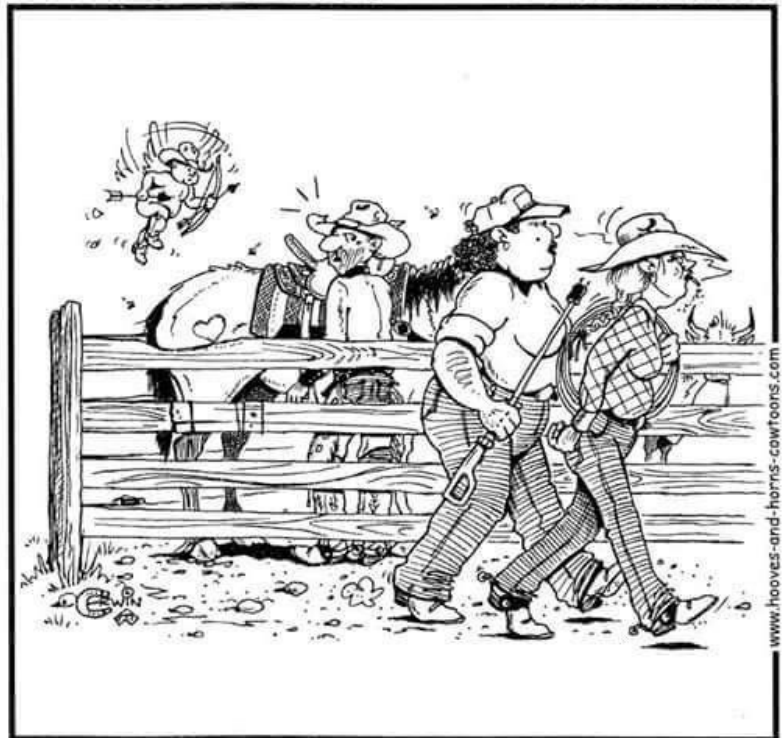
There was a discussion about the Wild Buffalo team project which started in 2017. This project has come up again asking if our members would be interested in being involved with hauling out logs, fencing and miscellaneous items with pack animals. One example is they would like our assistance with loading pack animals. This could be a week-long project. The parking area would hold approximately six vehicles no longer than 23 feet trailers. There is one corral. Normally they highline the animals.



Happy Valentines Day

HOOVES & HORNS

BY A.W. ERWIN



"Awright, but jus'wing her, 'cause she is a good cook, but git a direct hit on the one with the new horse-trailer."

Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

February 7th 2024—St. George Community Bldg.

Education 6:00PM Business to follow



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

February 10th— Red Mountain in the saddle at 10:00 AM, Bring lunch.

Moderate ride with great views of Snow Canyon from overlook, approx. 3 hour ride.

Red Mtn. trailhead is located on SR18 between Diamond Valley and Dammeron Valley, west side of hwy,

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.



Sponsor of the Month!

Hurst Stores (ACE) St. George



Chad Jared

Chapter contacts

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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: \$35.00; Family: \$45.00; Patron: \$100.00