



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

January 2025



From the Presidents Saddle



Wow what a start to the new year. We have seen a peaceful change of presidents (chapter presidents) and, as of yet , no executive orders have been issued LOL.

We are always excited to plan exciting rides, renew hopes for public land partnership agreements to clear trails and install equine corrals etc... The news is our partners are trying to work within public land bureaucracies to facilitate our wishes and plans. We express our appreciation to our local contacts who strive to honor our chapter desires while at the same time, dealing within their multi-layered approval processes.

We have desires to complete the Pine Valley Mountain, Dixie National Forest Equine camp area with additional corrals where existing singular ones already exist and make the park considerably more functional for equine camping. We also are hoping to get approvals for Utah Division of Natural Resources trail crews to clear existing trails in Pine Valley Mountain such as Whipple Trail, Forsyth Trail and the Summit Trail connecting these two grand sites.

Now is a great time to make plans and reservations for spring, summer and fall rides together with eyeing trail work needing to be done. We encourage everyone to be on the lookout for great new trails you've not yet experienced as well as reporting needs for repair on our favorite old friendly trails. Also, please do plan to invite a fellow horse enthusiasts to come join us on a ride or even better, a chapter meeting. Our numbers are super important in lobbying for protecting our trails and access to public lands. (Con't page 4)

NEXT MEETING

Community Building

See Page 8 for details



Babylon loop –Leeds

See Page 8 for Details

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Ride Story	2
Ride Pictures	3
Dogs on the trail	4
Meeting Minutes	5 6,7
Calendar—Sponsor of the month	8
Membership Application	9

February 5th

**Meeting at the Community
Building 6:00PM**

HAPPY NEW YEAR



In January, we had a chapter ride in Meadow Valley Wash, just outside Moapa, Nevada. The weather was perfect for the 26 riders who showed up.

During our welcome/safety meeting, we gave everyone a heads up about what to expect on the ride and told them a bit about the Huntsman family from Hebron, Utah. They homesteaded the 160-acre Kane Spring Ranch back in 1891. We also reminded everyone to be good stewards of the public land and follow Leave No Trace principles. This was especially important since we'd be visiting the 1891 cabin, petroglyphs, and colorful mud hills.

The big turnout meant we had to split into two groups. Lillian Peters led her group to the Narrows, Rainbow Ravine, and then ended up at the Huntsman Cabin and petroglyphs.

The folks who joined Keith Wheeler got to see the petroglyphs and Huntsman cabin first. We told them that the Huntsman family moved from Hebron to Gunlock, then to Bunkerville and Saint Thomas before settling in Moapa in 1891 and planting an orchard. Emeline's mom was a doctor, and she shared a lot of medical knowledge with her daughter.

The Kane Springs Ranch became a regular stop for the train when it arrived in 1905. People would come to enjoy Emeline's delicious food and ask for her advice and medicines.

After that, we explored the petroglyphs near the cabin. They're amazing! Some depict the Old Spanish Trail with mule-drawn carts, men in flat hats with rifles on their shoulders leading pack animals and riders on horseback with the reins and motion of the horse shown. The whole area of the canyon is covered in ancient petroglyphs, with some of the War Shields dating back 3000 or more years.

Keith's group then headed to Rainbow Ravine, and guess what? The timing couldn't have been better! We arrived just as Lillian's group was leaving the narrow part of the canyon. It was now our turn to explore that fascinating part of the canyon with its colorful hills and narrow passages. We rode the mile and a half up, took a nice long break, had some yummy snacks, and took some cool photos before heading back out.

Overall, we covered about 10 miles in 4 hours with the breaks we took. The trail was easy, and the footing was great. In fact, so good that two horses decided at separate times to lie down with their riders still on...

We want to thank everyone who came out, and if you return with others, please encourage them to stay off the mud hillsides, be good public land stewards, and practice Leave No Trace.

By Keith Wheeler



photo of the Huntsman family and the cabin. There was a spring behind the cabin originally but it was blocked when a large rock fell from the cliff above. Note the small size of the cabin but the large outdoor living area provided by the porch. This was common as the cabin would provide refuge from inclement weather but most daily life including cooking, eating and sleeping was done outdoors. photo credit, Huntsman family.



(Continued from page 1)

You may have a favorite trail needing attention and we welcome your input always for same. Note... the Wasatch Chapter plans to come down to enjoy riding our areas trails the week of May 6 -12 so be aware of these dates and feel free to join in on the riding fun...more details to follow. In the meantime, please feel free to give us your opinion and input for improving our efforts. We are always looking to better serve yours and our interests in this magnificent hobby and love for our special land resources.

Hope to see you soon out on one of our gorgeous trails or if not there, at our next chapter meeting !

John

We Love our Dogs.... But please don't bring them on a Chapter ride

As a reminder, it is chapter policy that no dogs are allowed on chapter rides. This is for everyone's safety. You and your friend's horse may be fine with Mr. K-nine running around to and froe, but that new member and/or guest may not. Some horses react to odd things, such as a loose dog and a chapter ride is not a training session. Having a group of horses together that do not know each other is enough of a variable and liability to cause a problem. We do not need to add more potential problems. What if EVERYONE brought their pooch, what would happen then? The ride's trail boss has enough responsibility, let alone needing to be "the enforcer." Please plan ahead and be courteous about this. But no one is saying you cannot bring your cat - yet...

From Sept 2024 President's message in newsletter:

As a reminder one more time, dogs are not allowed off leash in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. It's a National Conservation Area so their rules apply. Additionally, Washington County has an ordinance requiring dogs in any public area, trails included, must be on a leash. And it's the chapter's policy to not allow dogs on chapter rides. Safety for all comes first.



Meeting Minutes 6 PM, January 8, 2025**Call to Order: John West**

Members Present: John West, Tammy West, Lin Hokana, Feddy Dunn, Debra Gise , Tammy Engenes, DeAnn Fieselman, Sherrie, Kathy McGann, Freddy Dunn, Roshelle Bromley, Kacey, Deja Shweitzer, Doc Johnson, Tammy Lineback, Jarice Butterfield, Salina Butterfield, Kathy Duvall (zoom), Keith Wheeler (Zoom)

Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions

Educational Session: Roshelle Bromley and Assistant Kaycey “Horse Tails from Iceland”

Minutes: Motion to accept/corrected as published in the newsletter

Motion carried and approved

Treasurer's Report: Jeanette Blasdel

Balanced budget presented; motion carried and approved

Proposed 2025 budget proposed – will be reviewed and voted on at the next meeting

Old Business:**Update - Annual Fund Raiser and Membership Drive December 6, 2024 – Deja**

The fund raiser net profit was improved over 2023 but less than 2022

More information will be forthcoming regarding how to disperse these funds; John and Lin will network with local 4 H leaders, etc.

Thank you cards will be disseminated to donors; Freddy will prepare the cards and those disseminating the cards will write a message to the various donors. People responsible will get the number of cards needed to Lin.

Purchase new signage – Lin

BCHU State may be involved as they have money allocated for this purpose; there will be three or four different types of signs to place at various trails

New Business:

National Trails Day® on Saturday, June 7, 2025 – whether or not to do a clean up project this day is to be tabled

Chapter Debit Card renewal -John needs to be added to the card at Cache Valley Bank and a card for him ordered; it will be mailed to Jeanette

BCHU Nov. 16, 2024 State Meeting Report (see draft of minutes) – Lin presented highlights from the meeting;

Pine Valley will not have seasonal workers this year; scaled back and little maintenance will be provided by the Forest Service

Lin is on the marketing committee with Amanda for the State

The State meeting is on the 25th of this month in Richfield

Total State memberships are 445 and our chapter is at 104 (now at 111)

CPR/First Aid Training - interest was sought (5 or 6 people); CPR training required

BCHA Youth Grant – Lin indicated the grant is available for youth activities; see Lin for more information

Photos for CSU – Lin shared Sara Thomas from CSU would like some photos from some of the Chapter's rides, etc.

Brochures with chapter QR code – Lin suggested that a QR code sticker be put on the back of the Chapter's brochures and put these brochures at Zion Park Visitors Center and various other locations; Deja will get 500 QR code stickers made at Steam Roller

President's annual report to BCHU State Chapter – Lin prepared an annual report summarizing the events that the Chapter engaged in

Committee Reports

Liaison to local public lands agencies:

- o Southwest Regional Council -

Work Projects:

Add gravel/sand/road base needed at these to step overs (600 in Hurricane) – Jeanette will take the lead

Consent is needed to move a step over, etc.; manpower needed; someone needs to take the lead

Pine Mountain – the money is available to build corrals; waiting to get information from Pine Mountain (Forest Service engineers must approve first) – Freddy has emailed them; the Chapter may consider partnering with the Wasatch chapter if they are willing to engage in a project and ride in May (2nd week in May)

Education 2025:

- o The plan is to do education presentations quarterly
- o Suggested topics: Horse disposal / burial options in the area
- o CPR

Members should send John any other requested topics

First Aide Kit available on all rides – Tammy West will oversee this and will get a kit; she will be available on most rides but will designate someone when she is not

Horse Care on Rides – two vet members will be solicited each month

Chapter Group Brand Inspections – members who are interested having a horse(s) brand inspected should email Jarice at bjarice@aol.com and if there is enough interest the inspector will be contacted and a date set (most likely a Saturday)

- **Chapter Logo Monogram** – bring any items to the February meeting that you would like monogrammed (pricing will be posted in the newsletter and facebook).

Group Vaccination Clinic – John will check with Doc Johnson)

Ride Calendar: A ride calendar will be provided at the next meeting. Deja will lead a committee with Tammy and Keith. Members should let Deja know if there is a recommended ride that they would like.

January 11 **Rainbow Ravine** (2-hour drive) – 17 RSVP'D (18 -20); will be split into two groups; Keith has two people that can lead; the walkie talkies will be taken;

- February 8 **Babylon**
- March 8
- April 12
- May 10
- June 14
- August 9
- September 13
- October 11
- November 8

January 10, 2026

Adjourn: 8:45pm

Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

February 5, 2024—St. George Community Building 6:00PM

Come and Participate in our Chapters Success



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

February Chapter Ride - Babylon Loop, Leeds, Utah Saturday, February 12th. ***PLEASE RSVP*** This trail ride is a 9 mile loop and is rated difficult. Time expected in the saddle 3.5-4 hours at a quarter horse walk. There are several technical sections of sandstone rock with several high step-downs, bush whacking through deep sand and tamarisk, and several river crossings with steep embankments. **Experienced riders and horses are recommended.** This is a beautiful trail that has a little bit of everything! It connects to other trails and takes you to several wonderful landmarks. **Please be tacked and ready to ride at 10:00 a.m.,** pack a lunch. Keep on eye on the weather, we will not ride if there are high winds or rain. **Directions to the Toquerville Mine Trailhead:** Traveling north on I-15 take Leeds exit 22, (traveling south on I-15 take Leeds exit 23, then turn left onto Silver Reef Rd). Turn left unto Main Street, travel all the way through Leeds (2.2 miles if coming from the south), turn right onto 900 N Rd., travel 1.9 miles to the Toquerville Mine Trailhead. A portion of this road is a sand hill and you will need a good a 4-wheel drive truck especially when leaving after the ride. The parking lot is not especially large, please consider combining and do not bring a large LQ trailer. 3-Horse trailers and moderate size livestock trailers are fine. **Please RSVP/Comment** if you are planning on joining this ride, thanks!

Sponsor's of the Month!



Chapter contacts

President: John West 678-360-0999
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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