



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members



From the Presidents Saddle



We welcomed 11 new members last year and are looking forward to welcoming more new members this year. On page 5 of this newsletter has a story written by Darrell Wallace, currently chairman of BCHA regarding some recruiting methods being employed by other chapters. New blood is essential for the well being of any organization as recycling the same folks in leadership will grow stale after time.

As the new year begins we still had some details to finish up from last year which was primarily our Volunteer Hours Report. Our VP, Lin Hokana took on the task and reported the following: 268 volunteer hours, 65.75 travel hours, and 3,182.5 miles driven. Lin believes that the reported hours is well under reported and will be working on developing a better reporting method.

New energy and new ideas keeps a chapter fresh. Look over the story and see if there are some ideas you think could work for us. More importantly we need to find a person(s) that are willing to put in the effort as described in the story.

Our chapter ended the year with 65 memberships (increase from 2018) with spouses the total number is 101 members. We had 8 scheduled membership meetings and 7 scheduled chapter rides. In addition we participated in 14 additional activities and projects.

I have done some of the things described from time to time and I have brought in new members as a result. No reason you cannot as well.

Happy Trails, Have a Great New Year!

Paul

NEXT MEETING

Feb 11th, 6:30PM Community Building

See Page 7 for details



Monthly Ride!

Feb 8th— Beaver Dam Wash.

Mar 14th—Hurricane

Apr 11th—Brackens Loop

May 9th—Gooseberry Mesa

See Page 7 for Details

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February 11th
Meeting at the Community Bldg 6:30PM



Happy Valentines Day!

BCH Ride at Valley of Fire

January 11, 2020

By

Paul Sloane



Thirteen excited riders and their mounts arrived at the point of departure at the Valley of Fire State Park ready to experience the unique ride that Valley of Fire offers. They were: our ride leader Roshelle Bromley, Deja Schweitzer, Sierra Chidester, Rick Fabet, Richard Boschee, Jeanette Blasdell, Ann Guhman, Laura Lojko, Debra Anderson, Max Whiting, Vern Parker (from Canada), Jeff Cox and Paul Sloane. Also arriving were four ladies from the Nevada BCHA group who rode independently from our group.

The ride starts off just winging it across the wide open terrain thru dips and gullies although due to the growing popularity of riding here there are the beginnings of an established trail being formed by many hoof prints in the sand. Soon we began reaching formations rising from the desert floor that provides the uniqueness of the Valley of Fire experience. We had not been riding long before we encountered the first small group of sheep grazing. Soon after a second group was spotted moving up a slope and soon appeared silhouetted on a ridge. One of the anticipations on every ride here is spotting the sheep, it was fun to get that accomplished right off the bat.

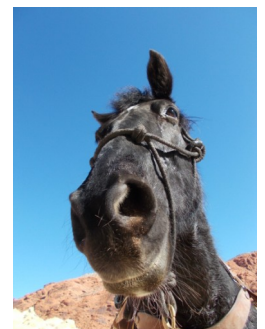
As Roshelle lead us on we arrived at the very unique Elephant Rock feature which is a major 'Kodak Moment' especially for the first time riders at the VOF. We proceeded up the steep hill to a saddle where our first technical decent takes place. The hill also takes some of the starch out of the horses that that are still a little wound up. The technical decent isn't all that bad, you just need to trust your horse and take it slow through the rocks and down the hill. The next stop is at our group photo spot.

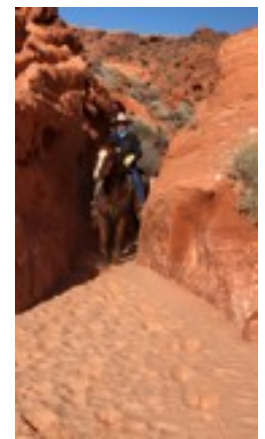
From here on out the ride takes you through a never ending assortment of hills and valleys, up and down with great views and unique features. At one of my favorite photo spots I like to go ahead of the group and prepare to take pictures of the group as they are winding down the trail from the ridge to the valley floor. 'Cool Pic'. Continuing on we rode up a wash bottom then turning up a ravine that lead us to what is known as 'Gods Canyon' as it offers a beautiful array of colored rock formations where we sit and hang onto our horses while we stop for lunch. No trees to tie to here. The ride up and down the ravine is a bit stimulating as well.

It's back down the wash bottom to the last technical place where we need to work around a water fall in the wash bottom. From here on it is clear sailing as we follow the wash bottom to the road then turn east and ride back towards our starting point. The last interesting feature we visited is a wall with ancient petroglyphs carved on the rock face.

Thanks to Deja's All Trails app were are able to see just where we rode. We traveled 9.5 miles, gained 827 ft in elevation and actual moving time was just short of 3 hours but the ride lasted 4 hours.

Another great day to be on a horse.







Recruiting new members for BCH

By Darrell Wallace (WA)

I recently interviewed a guy from my own chapter who is the most consistent membership recruitment guy you ever saw. I have seen his efforts bring in dozens of new members. He tells me that he did the same thing for another chapter clear across the state before he moved, and was equally successful, so I thought I would jot down his practices.

Leaving information on trucks with horse trailers parked at trailheads: he leaves anything from a **business card** noting the chapter meeting place, time, and date, along with the chapter website address, to one of many **brochures**. If it's a trailhead near town, he might leave a "Work Day" handout with the chapter contact information. He ALWAYS leaves his phone number. Sometimes, he even leaves an entire packet of materials (described below), all tucked under the windshield wipers of the vehicles parked there.

Leave No Trace brochures, BCH WA brochures, BCHA brochures, Local Trail Directories and Maps, Safety Tips for Riders, Trail Etiquette, Recreational Packing lists, Things to Always Take with You When You Ride – all materials developed over the years. I highly recommend that you customize it for your area.

He says he sometimes leaves Trail Etiquette flyers (the ones showing that hikers and bikers yield to riders) under the windshield wipers of other vehicles at the trailhead (SUVs with bicycle racks!). And sometimes they contact him asking about the Back Country Horsemen.

Now, he plans out his activities for each month. When the chapter has something special, like a featured speaker, or a fun trail ride, or any other special event, he distributes dozens of flyers in our small-town area. The flyers are not very fancy – often just the facts of what, where, and when – and the cost, usually FREE! He posts them at feed stores, tack stores, trailhead parking lots, parks, libraries, and grocery stores. He forces them on all the area farriers, and insists that they hand them out, not leave them on the passenger seat. He has also been known to visit the local radio and TV stations, asking them to make PSA announcements, and taping interviews when they ask him to talk into a microphone. If there is no special activity scheduled for that month, he "only" leaves chapter materials at trailheads etc.

But another very fruitful audience is found in his presentations to other equine groups: he solicits and accepts invitations to talk or show slide photographs to 4-H, pony clubs, saddle clubs, rodeo and western games teams, drill teams, and any youth group. He says that while he occasionally gets a new member right away (usually a parent or other adult), he more often sees those young people at a chapter meeting several years later.

I guess these are all good ideas, if carried out in a positive, enthusiastic way. The key is to get someone to have the materials on hand, and plan each month, looking for opportunities.

Darrell is currently Chairman of BCHA.

BCHUSW Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2020

The **BCHUSW** chapter meeting was called to order January 14, 2020 at the St. George Community Center by President Paul Sloane. In attendance were: Paul Sloane, Freddy Dunn, Lin Hokana, Roshelle Bromley, Fran Wilby, Larry Dunn, Richard Boschee, Deja Schweitzer, and Jeanette Blasdell.

Treasurer' Report: Assets as of January are \$9,411.92 as compared to last year's total of \$8,098.72 Our net income for January is 2,512.52 as compared to last year's total of \$2,185.50.

Freddy reported we will be paying the state and national dues which will then bring our assets down to about \$5,000. She also reported forty- five out of 65 memberships have been paid and figures for December's membership dinner were a little bit better than last year.

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

Old Business: Paul, Freddy and Jeanette met with Nick at the forestry department and concluded that they are not ready at this time to take on a large project to restore/improve the corrals at Pine Valley. They were open however to allowing us to pilot a few corrals. A corral committee has been formed and will discuss possibilities. Freddy suggested we also apply for a BCHA grant that will help our membership cover part of the cost .

New Business:

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to make Fred Ybright an honorary life member of BCHUSW for all of his help.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to pay \$90 to the City of Saint George for the use of the Saint George Community Center for these past six months .

A motion was also made, seconded, and passed to pay Paul \$102.52 for his purchase of paper goods and a projector cord. (Other members previously reimbursed were also included in this motion.)

Red Cliffs NCA Comments:

Freddy shared the scoping comments, which became a 192 page document written in collaboration with Conserve Utah, have been turned in. The document was also signed by BCHA so it will be seen as a national conversation. In the spring they are supposed to submit their responses.

Equine Trail Sports:

Freddy suggested we look into their events as this could possibly be a good way to raise some money for our organization.

Volunteer Hours:

Lin reminded members that we need to document our volunteer hours. In 2019 we recorded 340 hours. Members can report in the following areas:

- Planning and prep work for future work parties
- Attending additional meetings
- Newsletter preparation
- Facebook preparation
- Trail cleanup

Ride Calendar:

- February 8th Beaver Dam Wash
- March 14th Hurricane
- April 11th Bracken's Loop
- May 9th Gooseberry

Adjournment: 7:40

Respectfully Submitted: Jeanette Blasdell



Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

- February 11th—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)

- February 8th—Beaver Dam Wash in the saddle 10:00 AM, Bring lunch
Open riding not nose to tail, not difficult just sandy wash wit interesting scenery.
Directions: I-15 to Beaver Dam turn right, then left on Old Pioneer Road go 2 Mi to TH
Old Hwy 91 to Beaver Dam, turn right on Old Pioneer Road go 2 Mi to TH
Disregard No Trespassing signs. Land owners approve of our riding there.



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: Roshelle Bromley



Chapter contacts

President: Paul Sloane	632-7642 psloane@infowest.com
Vice President: Lin Hokana	209-790-9022 lhokana@tdsmaail.com
Secretary: Jeanette Blasdell	818-415-1305 jzblasdell@gmail.com
Treasurer: Freddy Dunn	862-6181 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