



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

July-August 2026

From the Presidents Saddle



July's a dark month for our chapter. With fire restrictions in place and triple digit heat settling over our red desert country, most members saw very little chapter activity. On the other hand, there were a couple of dedicated members who kept the wheels turning behind the scenes. Lin and Freddy stayed in communication with the BLM, Open Space Recreation, and other agencies regarding our future service projects. Lin has been hard at work completing paperwork for Pine Valley Equestrian Campground grants. This involves submitting bids, placing orders for new panels and requesting reimbursement through the approved

grants. His persistence keeps our chapter's commitments on track.

While a few of the chapter members chose to pack up their horse trailers and head north or out of state in search of cooler air, others spent time camping with family and friends and making the most of our quiet July.

August & September Rides

Our August Chapter Ride to Navajo Lake has been canceled. Although the Navajo area itself offers cooler temperatures, the return trip trailering horses back into the southwest desert heat poses too great of a risk after hours of riding. Our horses' safety comes first.

The September Chapter Ride will be announced at our upcoming board and social meeting. Cooler weather should open the door for better riding options. The Antimony camping trip is also unfortunately canceled this year, as our camp host/guide will not be available.

(Con't pg 2)



NEXT MEETING

Community Building

See Page 7 for details



September 12th

Ducan Springs

See Page 7 for Details

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Next Meetings Sept 2nd

**Business 4:00PM at
Washington County Library**

**Social 6:00PM at Black Bear
Diner**



September marks the beginning of the hard work ahead as Amanda and Deja begin organizing our annual December fundraiser. This event is one of our largest and most important of the year, and volunteer help makes all the difference. Please reach out to one of them if you're interested in volunteering.

We/I hope you and your horse keep safe and stay hydrated in this extreme heat.

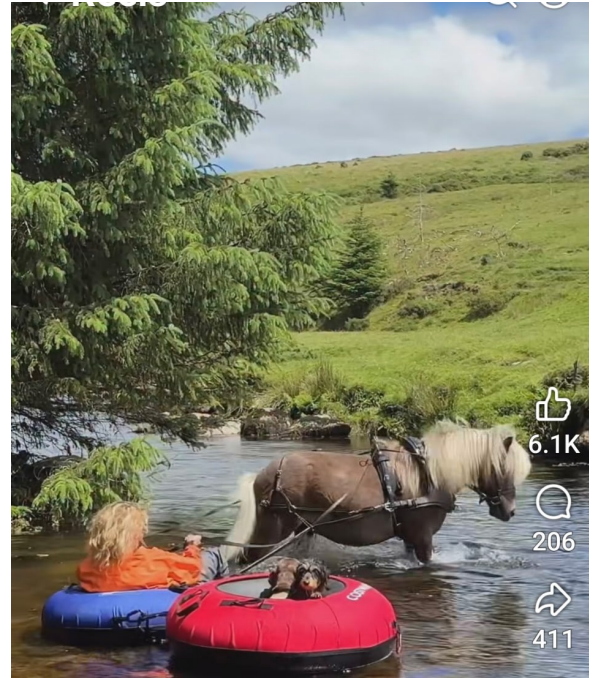
Tammy

Julie Dunn

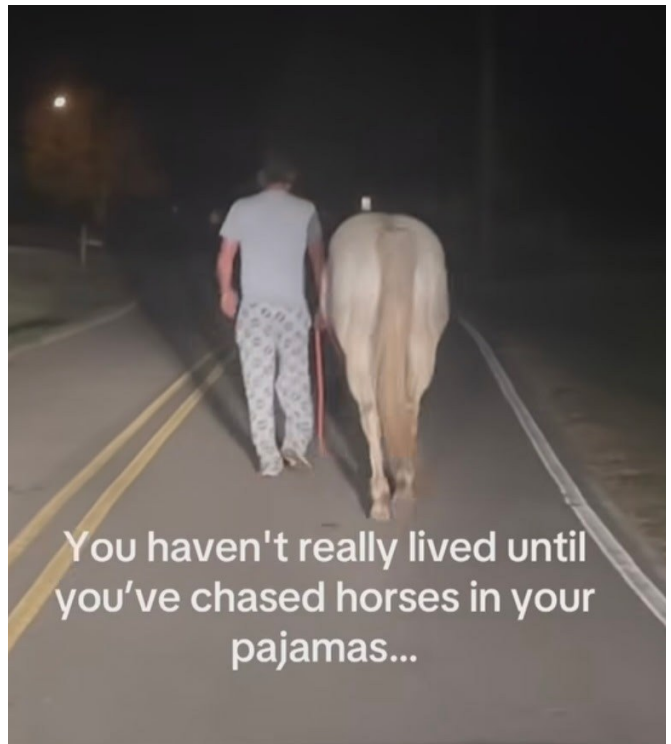
We were heartbroken to hear about the loss of your beloved Palomino Buttons. A heart horse is a once-in-a-lifetime partner. Losing him so suddenly from a lightning strike is sorrow that runs deep. Please know your Back Country Horsemen family is holding you close. We honor the bond that you shared and the trail miles you explored together. Buttons will be missed and remembered with love. With sympathy,

Back Country Horsemen





At least they are cool !



Summer Rides

Kathy Mcann - Bobshall Wilderness area in Montana



Elisa—Virgin River Rim Trail



Annie Oakley's 1st Trail Adventure

By Deja Schweitzer



My favorite riding horse, KissMe, is now 18 years old. She's still active, healthy, and full of years left on the trail, but she is technically a senior—just like every horse in my barn. So planning ahead for our riding future has been on my mind for a little while.

My good friend and fellow BCHU Southwest member, Mike Huntsman, has a wonderful Missouri Fox Trotter breeding program. I've ridden with Mike for five years and have seen—and ridden—many of his outstanding horses. Last winter, while KissMe was temporarily unridable due to a tumor on her back, I had the chance to board one of Mike's mares. I really enjoyed riding her, and told Mike that when he bred her, I'd be interested in buying a filly.

On May 3rd, I got my wish: a beautiful smokey black filly. I drove up the same day and spent priceless time with the new mom and her baby. Since then, I've visited her several times, and Mike has kept me supplied with photos and videos as she grows.

I decided to name her Annie Oakley's Smokin' Gun, and asked Mike if I could be there for her first trail outing. We saddled up two mares with their babies on a lead rope and rode along the Strawberry River in the beautiful Uintah-Wasatch National Forest. At our first creek crossing, Annie Oakley didn't hesitate at all—she stepped right into the creek, and crossing the water dozens of times, and through muddy banks, then stepped over logs and past range cattle and even passed by a big bull. It was so fun to see her trusting every step her momma made and willing to experience so many new sensory stimulations although Annie Oakley wasn't too fond of the tall meadow corn lilies at first, as the tall thick leaves rustled and tickled her legs and belly, but she even then she adjusted very quickly.

Mike and I were so proud as both babies handled their first trail adventure beautifully. And for me, it was a truly special moment—watching my future trail partner discover her first little piece of the backcountry that we will be exploring much more of together.



Just a follow-up to the email Freddy sent out regarding the Duvall's property being up for sale in Enterprise. If you know anyone who may be interested forward them the link below.

<https://www.flexmls.com/link.html?1za9bvt2v1tc,6,1>

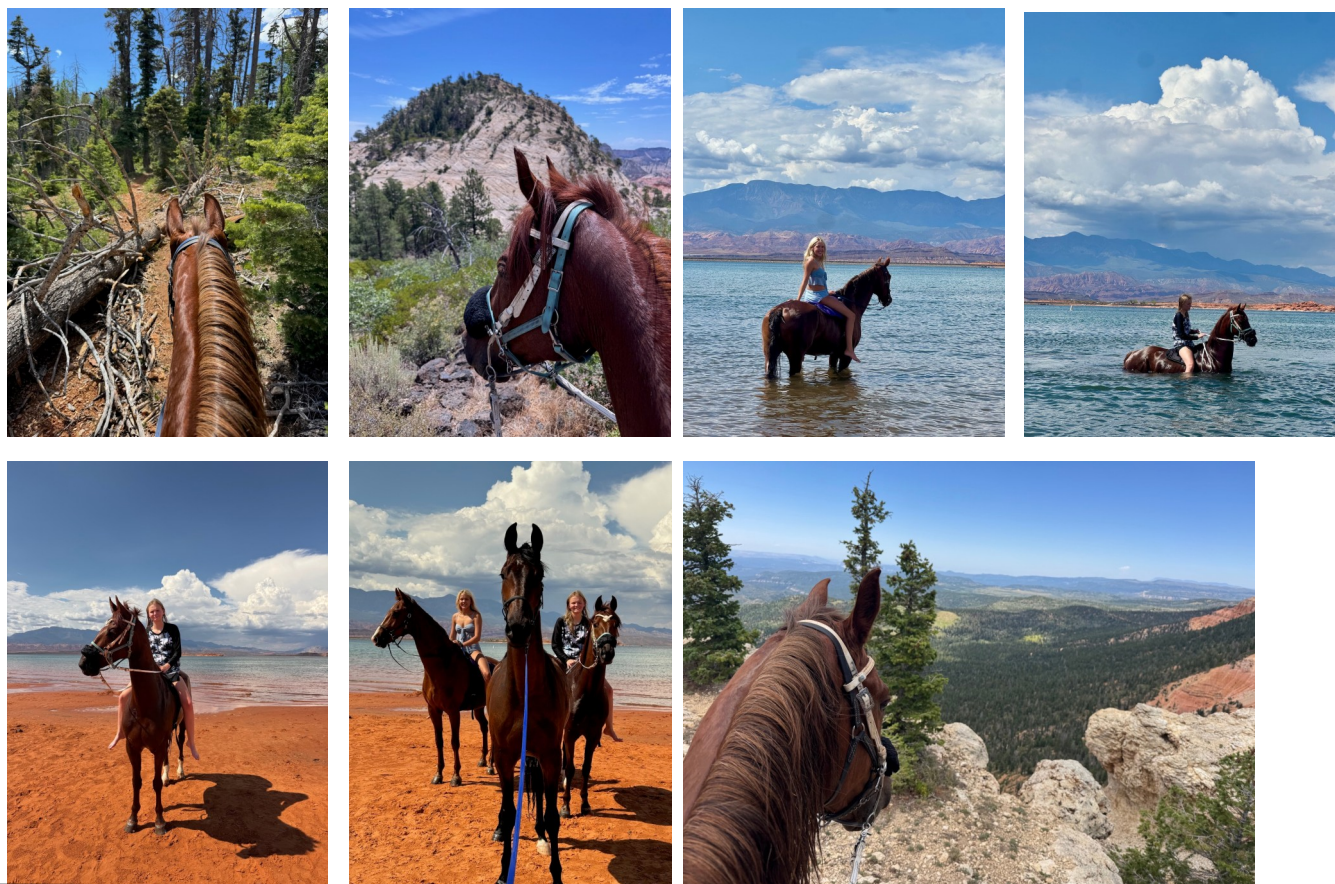
Here's an article from the St. George News about Pine Valley

https://www.stgeorgeutah.com/life/fire-floods-and-resilience-pine-valley-s-long-road-to-recovery/article_fcd7fcda-78af-4b0c-bc25-99ef74fdd195.html

And here is an article about horses in the military

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2026/08/05/the-army-certifies-its-first-equestrians-as-it-revamps-horse-care/>

Natalie Law— Zion Connector Trail, Sand Hallow, Navajo Lake Loop along with part of the Virgin River Rim Trail.



Jarice Butterfield Summer Rides in Bear Valley Springs and the Donut Hole with Ron Johnson

California Life



**Spanish Trail Silhouettes by Confluence Park
(near the Dixie Center)**

Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

Business Meeting , 2026—Washington County Library 4:00PM

Social Meeting , 2026—Black Bear Diner, St. George 6:00PM



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

September 12th Duncan Springs –in the saddle at 10:00 (allow for extra travel time) Bring lunch.

Directions: On Pinto Road 1.25 mi South off Hwy 56 between Cedar City & Enterprise. 17.5 miles west from I-15 in Cedar C. or 19.5 miles east from Hwy 18 past Enterprise (between mile posts 43-44) Nice trail in the trees with great views at the top. 3 - 3.5 hour ride incl. lunch

REMEMBER: Dogs are only permitted on leashes anywhere in Washington County. 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!



Chapter contacts

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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