

# Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members



## From the Presidents Saddle



Our horseback rides remind us why it's so deeply important to volunteer for community service trail work. At times trail clearing and maintenance can be very demanding. It's gritty labor: hard on the land; hard on the wildlife that calls it home, and hard on the volunteers who give their time, labor and treasury to keep these routes open. Multiple tools may be carried in on all terrains to clear the fallen timber; clear brush and low branches, haul rocks and pick up trash that isn't ours. Meanwhile, we're swatting those pesty, flying, biting bugs with the bright sun beating down on us; a saw in our grip and our horse patiently waiting

behind us. It's amazing - we come to understand how one storm can undo a season's worth of effort. All of this hard labor is worth it for our sturdy horses who feel the difference between a neglected trail and a well-maintained trail. They move more confidently, breathe more easily, and settle into rhythm.

This month also had National Trails Day on June 6th. Maintained trails are a gift to our partners, to the land, and to every rider, hiker and bicyclist who follows - all across America.

What many people don't see are the hours behind the scenes: the grant writing, the coordination between Back County Horseman and partnered organizations, the planning and approvals required to keep these trails open and safe. These projects, big or small, take dedication long before a single tool hits the dirt.

Our chapter has some exciting news coming up with service projects. Stay tuned- because projects at Tukepetsi and Pine

Con't Pg 4

### NEXT MEETING

**Community Building**

**See Page 6 for details**



No Rides in July

**See Page 6 for Details**

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**NO Meetings this Month**



## National Trails Day at Duncan Springs, Dixie National Forest

Duncan Springs remains one of our chapter's favorite go-to trailheads especially when we're seeking cooler temperatures, quiet country, and the kind of rugged beauty that feels untouched by time. Tucked into the foothills, this area brings together water, wildlife, and wide-open vistas in a way that reminds us why we ride.

This weekend, a few of our Back Country Horsemen of Southwest chapter gathered to celebrate National Trails Day, volunteering service to the trail and parking area's much needed attention.

As we rode up the steady climb, it presented as peaceful elevation gain, surrounded by pinyon, juniper and scrub oak. The trees sheltered us from the whistling wind, and wildflowers dotted the trail edges with beautiful color. Through the openings in the brush, the Zion fingers stretched across the horizon.

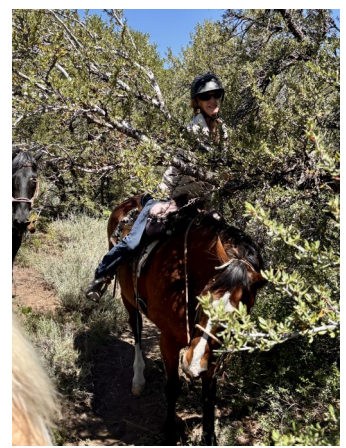
Jeanette stayed busy hand sawing the low hanging head-knockers, while others clipped back the fast-growing scrub oak that lined the trail.

DeAnn and Dana tackled the parking area prior to National Trails Day; clearing out the mess left behind from unauthorized pallet burning and removing wood debris, nails and screws.

By the end of the day, we had completed 6.91 miles of trail work, leaving the trail noticeably improved for us riders and hikers. We wrapped up with lunch at the trailers as the wind kicked up in full force.

Thank you to everyone who showed up and gave their time. DeAnn Fieselman, Eliza Edgar, Jeanette Blasdell, Ann Guhman, Justena White, Lin Hokana, Tammy Engeness and Dana Milsap.





Valley are approved but on hold due to fire restrictions.

I want to extend a sincere appreciation to Lin and Freddy for their extensive work in organizing and securing approvals for our chapter service projects. Their commitment is instrumental in our success.

Don't forget to record your service hours. (Don't know how to record them? Ask Freddy for help.

Freddydunn@gmail.com)

**Unique vintage items for sale or ?**

Contact Sherri Phillips 632-9883

Large framed poster of antique carriages

All the following are for decor, not in usable condition

2 doctors bags

Harness

2 bridles

1 pair Hames

Hinges and wire puller

**BCHU-Southwest Meeting Minutes June 3, 2026**

**Call to order:** Tammy Engeness called the meeting to order at 4 PM.

**Members Present:** Tammy Engeness, Debra Grise, Lin Hokana, Freddy Dunn, Jeanette Blasdell.

**Approval of May 2026 Meeting Minutes as published.** Motion was made and approved to accept the minutes as published in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeanette Blasdell reported on the current treasurer's report and it was accepted. There were no expenses at this time for the Three Peaks plumbing project. The Tukupetsi expenses for the gate were approved and purchased one item for the proposed lever gate. Our CD's are still ongoing.

**Old Business:**

-Lin Hokana gave an update on the grants for Pine Valley corrals. The RRI grant was approved for the requested amount, which requires cost sharing. The RAP Tax grant was approved for 50% of what was requested. The BCHA grant was approved. We are in great financial shape to proceed with the corral project.

A meeting has taken place with the forest service since receiving the grants. It involved moving forward on the equestrian campground this fall with the grading and setup of the corrals as noted in phase one. Additional equestrian campsite(s) could possibly be in the tent sites. Installing corrals this year is phase one. New water lines would be in phase 2. Additional campsites with corrals and perhaps a group pavilion area for picnics could be in phase three.

-Bloomington Area Zone 6. We have been asked to submit trail names by the Desert Reserve. Amanda is going to report back to us on this. We need to add the trails after the step over at zone 6 to the master map.

**New Business:**

-There is a new BCH Chapter that has formed in Teasdale Utah with twelve members., the Fremont River chapter.

-National trails day was celebrated with a work party at Duncan Springs and a chapter ride at 10 am on Saturday June 6. The parking lot was cleaned and trimming work was done on the trail.

-Please let us know if you have any ideas for future work projects.

-Tukupetsi gate renovation project was approved by the BLM. They will pay for materials, the chapter would pay for labor.. Work will begin in the fall once fire restrictions are lifted as it needs welding.

-The wooden pedestrian bridge at Harrisburg is in need of repair. It's located over the creek in the south section near the camping area. We would like to have a dedicated equestrian bridge built and the creek cleared of debris in that area. The BLM will be contacted at a later date regarding this.

-Hurricane: SW Region Outdoor Recreation Initiative represents us. They are offering teaching sessions about how to get high level grants.

**If you're going to be even 5 minutes late to a trail ride, please call the ride leader. We never want to leave you alone.**

**-We now require you to sign in at the ride and leave an emergency contact number of someone we can reach that day.**

**Rides:**

July SUMMER BREAK no meetings or rides

August 8 Navajo Lake-Jeanette

Sept. 12 Ford Ranch Horse Camp, Antimone-Please email: Fran at franceswilby8@gmail.com

October 10 Red Mountain-Lin

November 14 Babylon-Deja

December Annual Fundraiser auction and dinner

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm

Minutes submitted by Debbie Grise





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 Southwest Chapter: Individual: \$35; Family: \$45**