



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members



From the Presidents Saddle



If you missed last month’s meeting, we had two excellent speakers for the educational section. I think everyone learned valuable information about horse hydration. Thank you, Natalie, well done. And who knew about The Wilderness Land Trust helping place private property that’s within public land into that land manager’s assets. Kelly Conde gave a brief description of what this organization has to offer. Learn more about this unique arrangement at <https://wildernesslandtrust.org/about/our-mission/>. And if you would like to watch the recorded sessions, see our Facebook page (Back Country Horsemen of Utah – Southwest Chapter); we have been doing a live-feed of the educational sessions so anyone can join in and they are saved on our page.

The chapter’s ride at Cottonwood was another beautiful day to be in the saddle. We had new members on their first ride, a youth rider and one casualty. See the ride report for those details.

Bren Mansfield with the Forest Service hosted a crosscut saw certification program. On June 7th I attended the classroom training and then two days the following week were

in the field learning and demonstrating the skills of cutting trees with another person at the other end of the saw. It included both bucking up a downed tree and felling a standing tree, two different certifications. I’m happy to say I earned the B-bucker for downed trees and A-bucker for a standing tree. I would really much rather leave a standing tree to someone younger and more experienced than me.

Through that experience I made a new contact with the Forest Service that can advise us on which trails have been worked on and cleared. I’ll send that information to our PR chairwomen to disseminate.

On June 16th we had planned to install a new step over in what’s called Zone 6 (part of the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve), near Reinmakers Equestrian Park. We had a pleasant surprise in that, unbeknown to us, a new step over was already installed, apparently by the fencing contractor who put up the fences. We will be planning some rides in that area to help identify equestrian routes, with guidance from Connie and DelRay Jackson at Reinmakers.

We are “dark” in July; no planned chapter activities due to summer vacations and the heat. Our next meeting is August 2nd, educational presentations TBA. The chapter ride is August 12th at Pine Valley; in the saddle at 10AM in the equestrian day use parking lot. We will have a burger burn after that ride so stay tuned for additional information. Several of us have reservations at the equestrian campground encompassing that Saturday and we would enjoy your company, too. I hope to see you then. AND, we are again helping BCHA report the use of non-equestrians using the equestrian campground. Please complete and submit the online survey whenever you are there, the same procedure as last summer: <https://form.jotform.com/220378164958062>.

August 2nd Meeting at the Community Bldg

NEXT MEETING

Community Building

See Page 9 for details



Monthly Ride!

8-12 Pine Valley & Burger Burn

See Page 9 for Details

Inside this issue:

President’s Message	1
Work Project Story & Pictures	2-3
Ride Story & Pictures	4-5
Meeting Minutes	6-7
Crosscut Saw Certification	7-8
Calendar—Hat of the month	9
Membership Application	10

National Trail Day, June 3, 2023

By Lin Hokana

BCH-SW again participated in the National Trail Day event, promoted by the American Hiking Society, <https://americanhiking.org/blog/national-trails-day-2023-festivities-from-coast-to-coast/>. The purpose of the national event is to get volunteers out and about to help clear and maintain trails for us all to enjoy. Our chapter's event was listed on the national website, as well as a few other events in Washington County.

We tied this event in with our Coalpits/Scoggins Wash trail restoration project leading into Zion. When we held our work project event on May 10, 2023, Jeanette Blasdell, Debra Grise and Tammy Engeness diligently cut brush in the newly-expanded parking area and piled it on the other side of the fence. The original plan was to disperse the brush on a later date. It was decided to do this as our chapter's National Trails Day activity.

Those who took on the challenge were Jeanette Blasdell, Tammy Engeness, Deja Schweitzer, Derek Schweitzer, Steve Julian and Lin Hokana. Rather than trying to disperse the brush so it wasn't obvious, which would have been a lot of work carrying it off and away, we decided to haul it to the landfill, using two horse trailers stuffed full to haul the material. Why horse trailers? Because we had them and no one we knew had a dump trailer. The result was a much cleaner looking site.

A future event, smaller than this one, is to clear more brush out in an area intended to be the auto parking area, leaving the newly opened area for trailer parking.

Bravo to the work crew! Many hands make light work.





BCH Ride at Cottonwood

June 10, 2023

By Scott Ford

June 10th, 9am at the Cottonwood Trailhead and we had nine butts-in-the-saddle, taking our first pix as we prepared to depart on a 6.5 mile loop into red rock heaven. Unbelievably mild temperature and high cloud cover meant this was going to be a lovely jaunt through the colorful lands near Hurricane, Utah.

This was my first outing with the awesome Southwest chapter of the Back Country Horsemen and for one young, but brave, rider this became her first ever trail ride.

The stepover out of the parking lot and onto the trail became local rodeo "Shoot #4" and as we worked to coax mounts through, horses and riders hit the ground. No bronco bucking scores were given as this was simply a slip to the side that tripped up a few. One rider had to call it a day, and after unsaddling and applying bandages (good work Dr. Deja) we were down to eight riders, and we hadn't left the trailhead yet.

For those unfamiliar with the area, although it is called Cottonwood Trailhead, I don't believe there have been trees on this particular trail since the dinosaurs left their prints nearby.

On our way up, over, around and through these hills, some smooth and other craggy, red rocks, we were still blessed with much green. Light green grasses and sage, red black and yellow sands, dark green with white needled cactus, purple, blue and orange blossoms followed us as we traversed the sandstone just at the foot of Pine Valley Mountain.

A couple of hours later nearing the end of the trial, we got word that it took 10 stitches to get Steve's elbow patched after the Shoot #4 mishap. Bummer.

Blessed with clouds most of the way into this petrified terrain and back helped us appreciate the unique June weather as we rounded out the trail and rested our ponies at the trailers before loading up. 'twas another delightful horsy day.





REMINDER

**Our Chapter is Closed for the month of July.
No meetings or ride!**

**Southwest Chapter – PO Box 3174 – St. George, UT 84771
1st Wednesday at 245 North 200 West, St. George UT**

Members Present: Deja Schweitzer, Jeanette Blasdell, Lin Hokana, Mike and Kathy Duvall, Scott Ford, Jarice Butterfield, Tammy Engeness

Minutes – June 6, 2023

Call to Order: Lin Hokana

Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions – deferred, meeting held outdoors.

Minutes: Motion to accept/correct May, 2023 minutes as published in the newsletter
Motion made and approved

Treasurer's Report: Jeanette Blasdell

Old Business:

- Emergency Evacuation Plan – Lin – no update
- Utah Sales Tax Exemption Status – Lin found out the first application was lost. Another application was submitted today.
- Forest Service Crosscut Saw Training – Lin attended the classroom training today. Field work will be done next Wednesday and Thursday.
- Belt Buckle Sales – no update
- BCHSW Website Update - BCHU Versus our Own – Deja

It was agreed that the Southwest Chapter should pursue their own website. Deja will be meeting with someone in the near future that has agreed to assist in getting the website for the Chapter up and running.

New Business:

- Pine Valley Equestrian Campground Walk Through with Forest Service staff – Lin met with Larry Velarde and Rowdy, the interim district ranger and did a walk through of the equestrian campground, describing what BCHSW would like to be changed and improved. Lin prepared, submitted and shared with the officers a summary of the conversations. There will be no new corrals this year but there is hope that there will be improvements/additions made in 2024.
- **Committee Reports:**
 - Liaison to local public lands agencies: Lin Hokana / Freddy Dunn, Co-Chairs
 - Future corrals at Pine Valley – on hold for now
 - Gooseberry Mesa step over – Lin is going to be communicating with Donna
 - Grant Requests – Freddy and Lin
 - BCHUtah or step over – Lin: Grant approved.
 - Zion NP and grant – no update
 - List of Utah Outdoor Recreation grants approved (list of various grants around Southern Utah) shared in hand-out
 - Liaison to State BCHU – Lin gave a brief summary of the April 5, 2023 meeting. BCHSW has the most members and memberships, but we as well as all the other chapters, are down from last year.
 - Annual Fund Raising/Membership Drive Dinner: Lin, Deja and John, Co-chairs
 - The dinner/fundraiser First Saturday in December, 2023; Deja will check on location availability
 - Membership – Laurie Clay, Chair
 - No update at this time (Laurie absent)
 - Work Projects: Jeanette Blasdell and Deja Schweitzer, Co-chairs
 - Zone 6 Desert Reserve Step Over Installation, then Scouting Equestrian Trails – waiting to hear if the Desert Reserve has access to a Bobcat with an auger – we may need to rent one; Lin will look at setting this up on a Friday

- National Trails Day June 3, 2023 – Lin did a write up for the newsletter
- Confluence Park trail trimming – Jeanette and Tammy trimmed what they could but there was swift water (got trimming started).
- **Education:** Lin
Possible topics: Options for deceased horses; let Lin know of other topics of interest

Ride Calendar: Deja Schweitzer, Chair

- August 12 – Pine Valley – Lin Hokana, burger burn to follow
- September 9 – Duvall Ranch in Enterprise
- October 21 - Play Day Reinmakers –
- November 11 (Veterans Day) – Gooseberry Mesa - Deja Schweitzer
- January 13, 2024 – Valley of Fire – Keith Wheeler
- February 10 – Red Mountain – Jeanette Blasdell
- March 9 – Gunlock – John West

Business Meeting Adjourned

Educational Presentation: (videos available on the chapter's Facebook page)

- Natalie Law – What to know about horse hydration.
- Kelly Conde – The Wilderness Land Trust – Who they are and what they do.

Respectfully Submitted, Jarice Butterfield

Crosscut Saw Certification – Here's How

By Lin Hokana

This month (June) I was privileged and honored to participate in the crosscut saw certification program conducted by Bren Mansfield with the US Forest Service. I was the only non-Forest Service trainee out of the 9 attending. The first day was classroom training. Safety is always number 1, and it starts with “knowing what you’re doing.” This includes knowing the parts of the saw, the different types of saws, how to safely handle them, how to assess the work to be done, etc., etc.

This was followed up with two days of actually using saws in the field. Who knew the first thing Forest Service staff do before heading off down the trail is do stretching exercises. I’ve done yoga and everything all the men and women did were familiar yoga moves. We had four trainers so we broke into groups of two rookies with one trainer. The first day was actually learning how to safely assess the work and safely and effectively use the saw with your partner. Instructors assessed your skills through a series of cuts and at the end of the day you were evaluated and given your rating. I was given a B-bucker rating for cutting a downed tree and an A-bucker for felling a standing tree. As a B-bucker I can train another person on bucking up a downed tree – my partner with the two-person saw. For felling a tree, I need to work with someone with a higher certification than mine, which is perfectly fine by me. I’ve bucked a lot of downed trees with a chain saw so being able to now use a crosscut saw seemed somewhat familiar. But felling a tree is a whole new skill and I’m happy to leave that to those more experienced. What was surprising is how easily a crosscut saw does its work.

Day two was a hike up Mill Creek trail to finally start clearing it after the fire from several years ago and the havoc it created since then. There were four two-person teams with an instructor. We leap-frogged our way up the canyon. First team to come across a downed tree handled that as the others moved further up the trail. Next team to come to some work handled that as the others continued up the trail, etc. We made it up about 3.3 miles from the trailhead. My partner and I bucked seven trees. Pretty good progress for one day when multiplied x 4 teams.

Photos show some of the work; I should have taken more. And on our return to the trailhead, we met one of the local residents; a very big and unhappy rattlesnake. Everyone wanted to get a photo of him/her.

So, what does being certified offer? Since our chapter does not own a crosscut saw (they are expensive and need expert maintenance) we can join Forest Service staff when they have a trail clearing day in the wilderness. Extra help is always appreciated – it’s real work.

Thanks go to everyone who helped put the training program together. I’m glad to, “...have another tool in my tool belt.” (See pg 8 for photos)



Great Basin Rattle Snake



More work to do!

Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

8-02-2023—St. George Community Bldg. Business 5:30—General 6:30pm

Come and Participate in our Chapters Success



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

August 12th—Pine Valley Equestrian Campground parking area. In the saddle at 10am, Burger Burn to follow ride. Bring side dish and chairs.

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: Scott Ford



Chapter contacts

President: Lin Hokana 209-790-9022
BCHU.southwestpresident@gmail.com

Vice President: John West 678-360-0999
johntaylorwest@gmail.com

Secretary: Jarice Butterfield 805-368-2132
bjarice@aol.com

Treasurer: Jeanette Blasdell 818-415-1305
bchswtreasurer@gmail.com

Newsletter: Paul Sloane 632-7642
psloane@infowest.com

Media/Public Relations:
Deja Schweitzer 669-2759
dejaschweitzer@gmail.com

Website: www.bchutah.org—click on Southwest link-
Chapter email: bchu.southwest@gmail.com

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