



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members



From the Presidents Saddle



Snow Canyon State Park in the St. George area is a very active recreation area for our locals and out of town visitors. Last month, three of us from the chapter enjoyed a beautiful sunny day horseback riding at Snow Canyon for a couple hours. We rode deep into the canyon passing the towering red rock walls with black lava flows. We took in the amazing, rich multi colors of the canyon: red cliffs, black lava fields, desert washes and canyon walls covered in pateina. Freddy points out spiral cuts creating shapes in the walls and the sand changing from red to white. Then she points out an odd shaped single rock sitting on the edge of another rock. She says, "How long do you think it will be before that rock falls?"

The trail is designed as multiuse; we knew we would most likely encounter a few hikers and bicyclists. Our enjoyment and safety would depend on us staying alert for wildlife and others – that is, how well everyone shares the trail. We can't control the actions of the other trail users, but we can make the difference between safe, friendly interaction by just stopping and educating the cyclist on trail etiquette: cyclists yield to horses. Most of the public doesn't understand horses who may perceive fast, quiet, or downhill bikes as predators.

During our lovely, easy horseback ride, we encountered several cyclists enjoying the day on the same trail as us. Most of the bike riders slowed down, stopped, and spoke to the horses and us to say hi. Of course, there was one who chose not to yield or slow down as she rode between two of us. It could have been a big wreck...but it wasn't, thank goodness. Just goes to show you, it's important to have eyes in the back of your head on multiuse trails.

Be safe and happy trails to everyone.

Tammy



Freddy Dunn

NEXT MEETING

**Community Building
April 1st**

See Page 7 for details

Monthly Ride!

April 11th Three Peaks trail & obstacle course

See Page 7 for Details

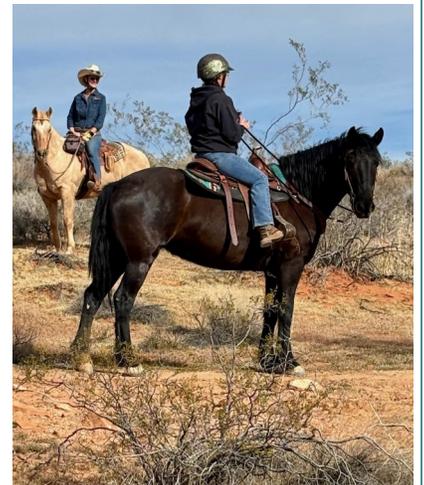
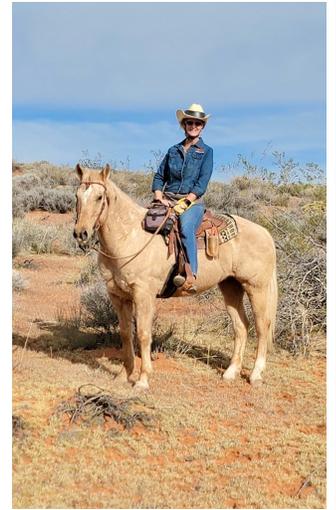


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April 1st

Meeting at the Community Building 6:00PM



Spring has Sprung as of March 20th

A Morning on T-Bone Trail

On Saturday morning, I joined the BCHU Southwest for a beautiful ride on the T-Bone Trail in St. George. Jeanette was kind enough to offer me her exceptional and outstanding horse, Scarlett, to ride. Our group—Jeanette, Debbie, Tammy, Eliza, Justina, and me—followed Jeanette's lead on a relaxed six-mile loop that took about two hours to complete. The weather couldn't have been more perfect. Early morning clouds turned to clear skies with comfortable temperatures and a nice breeze making the ride feel refreshing. Spring is starting to show itself across the desert. The trail was dotted with bright yellow primrose and the soft orange blooms of globe mallow.

The landscape around us was classic southern Utah—rolling desert with red rocks, hardy shrubs and low ridges of dark volcanic rock. The red sand beneath our horses' hooves contrasted beautifully with patches of black lava rock scattered across the terrain.

There's no better way to experience this than on horseback.

At several points along the trail we passed hikers and mountain bikers, all of us sharing the same appreciation for the open space and the sweeping views.

Along the way we also noticed survey stakes marking the proposed route for the Northern Corridor project. Seeing them was a reminder that this landscape, so quiet and timeless during our ride, may look different in the future.

After completing the loop, we returned to the trailers where our horses rested and we settled in for lunch. Sitting together in the desert sunshine, we enjoyed good conversation with plenty of laughter. It was the perfect ending to a memorable ride.

Moments like these are what make these trail rides so special with great friends and great horses. What a wonderful experience, thanks to BCHU!

Heléna DeRosa

Red Mountain Trailhead Clean-up March 7, 2026



Red Mountain Community Service Project

A cool windy day brought together BCHU Southwest members and the local Winchester and Dammeron 4-H Groups. The community service project on Saturday March 7 was to clean out the tumble weeds in the Red Mountain Trail staging area.

Work commenced at 10 am with pitchforks, gloves and approximately 25 willing volunteers. Lin Hokana brought his small tractor and compacted the tumbleweeds into the large walk-in dumpster that BLM provided.

Some of the tumbleweeds were so big that two people had to pull them towards the dumpster. Luckily the dumpster was positioned so the wind assisted in blowing them in. Once completed the dumpster was completely full.

After this project a half dozen of our members went to fill the back side of two stepovers that had major erosion. The Cottonwood and Harrisburg stepovers at the staging areas are now a safe height in both directions for horses of all sizes.

These are the types of projects that can build community between our chapter and other organizations. We need to lead by example so the next generation sees how important it is to give back and how simple it can be. The future of these lands are no longer going to be in our hands but in theirs some day.

Thank you to everyone.

Debbie

BCHU-Southwest Meeting Minutes March 4, 2026

Be safe and happy trails to everyone.

Call to order: Tammy Engeness called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions: Tammy Engeness led the Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Tammy Engeness, Debra Grise, Lin Hokana, Freddy Dunn, Jeanette Blasdell, Dana Millsap, DeAnn Fieselman, Lorie Stobie, Deja Schweitzer, Ronald Johnson and Amanda Heinritz.

Approval of February 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 2026 budget. One disbursement for Freddy's gas to the state meeting at \$84.48. We also have added four new members since January 1. It was motioned and approved to remove \$150 carry over on the profit and loss statement.

Old Business:

-Red Mountain tumbleweed removal had to be rescheduled due to snow. BLM has supplied dumpsters for Saturday March 7 at 10 am. Jeanette is bringing the road base to level the stepovers. Bring pitchforks, manure forks, shovels and gloves. Please RSVP. Debbie has emailed Kaydn Ence about having 4-H in the area help out.

New Business:

- Lin Hokana reported that we are still waiting to hear on the UT RRI, BCHA and RAP Tax Grants.

-Freddy Dunn will again contact Bob Wells about spraying for pre-emergent tumble weeds at Cottonwood and Harrisburg staging areas.

-Upcoming Kansas City BCHA meeting - there were two new resolutions presented. The first one is to set up a committee to look into getting national members who are not affiliated with local chapters. This would be a way for the organization to increase revenue. The second one is to generate more income from a restricted fund. Once the funding reaches \$500,000 you could use sixty percent of the interest. It currently stands at \$300,000 with a four percent use once you reach the threshold.

-Debbie Grise has been searching for a venue to hold a fundraiser tack sale. Legacy Park is too big, expensive and has few dates. The Hurricane Community Center is a possibility. It is reasonable with less space and a more open schedule. Vernon Worther Park was suggested and she is going to look into it. We may try and have it downtown during the Dixie Rodeo.

-Freddy, Lin and Tammy attended the Open Space Meeting. It involves groups such as us, mountain bikers, climbers, hikers, equestrians and OHV'ers. Any group who uses the trails in St. George is welcome to input on which local trails need preservation in the face of new developments. Trails that we identified were as follows: Ranger Bart, Virgin River Trail, the Bloomington arena and river trail. Our new mayor in St. George is an equestrian. Members are

encouraged to attend the St. George City Council meeting tomorrow to show support for this new advocacy group.

-Amanda Heinritz presented a bid on new tables and displays for promotion. Two six foot tables with table covers and a display with logo and two popups came in at \$1000. She would like to add a pop up shade. We asked her to get another bid from Rainbow Sign and Banner. She is going to also look into the cost of a club calendar that has our ride photos and dates for the year.

-A new 4-H Club is being set up at Rainmakers. Amanda asked us to sponsor ten t-shirts with the club logo for the kids and four adults. There is a \$500 BCHU grant available for this exact purpose.

-Amanda suggested we have two meetings each month. One would be basically the board meeting we now have with the committees reporting in. The second meeting would be for the membership to come together for a social meeting. You could order food, get the next ride information, update on the board meeting and have a speaker on horse related topics. The Black Bear Diner in St. George is where this meeting would be. This would give membership a less formal environment to socialize and have fun. The first membership meeting is Wednesday April 8. Please come at 5:30 pm to order your food and the meeting starts at 6 pm. Doc Johnson is presenting a talk on horse allergies.

Pine Valley Equestrian Campground Grant Update:

Lin Hokana reported that it could be 2028 - 2029 before the campground and trails are open again due to the amount of infrastructure damage.

-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:

March 14 Pioneer Rim/T Bone-Jeanette

April 11 Three Peaks Equestrian Trail & Obstacle Course-Freddy

May 9 Duvall Ranch Enterprise Hosted by Mike and Kathy Duvall

June 6 Duncan Springs Ride (Trail work for National Trails Day) DeAnn

July SUMMER BREAK no meetings or rides

August 8 Navajo Lake-Jeanette

Sept. 12 Ford Ranch Horse Camp, Antimone-Fran

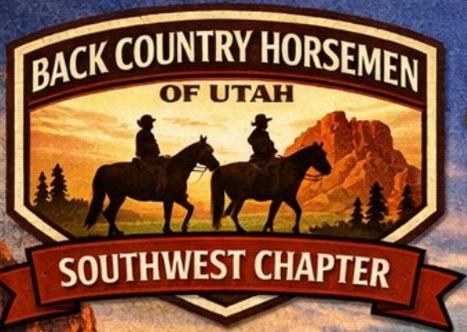
October 10 Red Mountain-Lin

November 14 Babylon-Deja

December Annual Fundraiser auction and dinner

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm

Minutes submitted by Debbie Grise



Saddle Up & Join Us!



Black Bear Diner
St. George



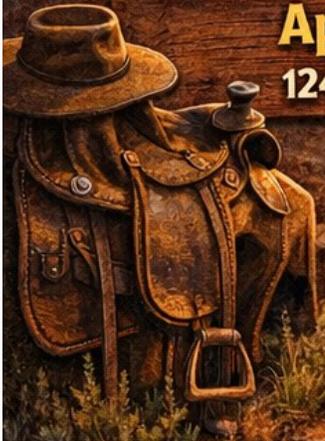
MEMBER MEETING
April 8th ♦ Black Bear Diner
 1245 S Main St ♻️ ♥ St. George, UT

Drawing for Branded Merch!

- 🕒 Arrive 5:30 PM For Food
- 🕒 Meeting Starts At 6:00 PM

Bring a Friend!

Come for the Yummy Pie!



KEEPING TRAILS OPEN



RIDE RESPONSIBLY



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY



FUN ON THE TRAIL

Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

April 1, 2026—St. George Community Building 6:00PM

Come and Participate in our Chapters Success



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

April 11th—Three Peaks Obstacle Course

In the saddle at 10:00am, bring lunch

Directions: Take I-15 Exit 59, turn right onto Utah highway 56 and head west 1.8 miles to 3100 W, travel north for 5.5 miles and turn left onto 4800 N, travel 2.5 miles and turn right onto Three Peaks Rd, the trailhead will be on your right.

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's 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 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