



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

May 2023



From the Presidents Saddle



Great things have been happening. Progress is being made on the Coal Pits and Scoggins Wash historic trails. The last chapter ride was a work project on these trails along with a ride. Several members have done work on their own. There is still plenty of work to do, and plans are in the mix to continue with making the improvements.

On Saturday, June 3, 2023 we are participating in National Trails Day. As in the past, we have an event registered with the American Hiking Society, https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/find-an-event/#find-event/view-details20/64659f2f30759400299d33cb/?view_380_filters=%5B%5D. We will be

doing cleanup at the Coal Pits parking area, which is approximately 17 miles east of Zion Helicopters' location on UT Highway 9. The brush has been removed at our work day to expand the trailer parking area. The cut brush needs to be dispersed from the fence line to keep the area scenic. This trail enters into Zion NP. This is not being promoted as a work and ride activity, just work, so you can come without a trailer, or with horse and trailer if you plan to ride. Bring gloves, lots of water and maybe some bug spray, wear sturdy shoes and sun protection. We will be moving/dragging brush that has already been cut and stacked away from the fence line, dispersing it to be less visible. Start at 9 AM. With many hands, it should not take too long. There is an option to cut and disperse more brush as time allows.

I met with upper National Forest management staff at the Pine Valley Equestrian Campground. This year we will not be making any progress with new corrals due to short staffing issues in the Forest Service. Candidates for the open positions are being recruited and will hopefully be filled soon. The good news is the staff I met with were very supportive of our goals and had some good ideas to consider. This

Con't page 5



June 7th

Meeting at the Community Bldg Business
5:30PM General 6:30 PM

NEXT MEETING

June 7th Community Building

See Page 6 for details



June 3 Cleanup Coal Pits Parking area

June 10 Cottonwood Trailhead

See Page 6 for Details

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1-5
Work Project and Pictures	2
Meeting Minutes	3-4
Calendar—Sponsor of the month	6
Membership Application	7

Coal Pits and Scoggins Wash Work and Ride, May 13, 2023

By Lin Hokana

Due to high water runoff, the Mount Carmel ride was changed to a work project and ride at the Coal Pits and Scoggins Wash historical trails in Zion NP. Several rigs squeezed into the parking lot with workers and riders ready by 10AM.

After a safety meeting, three teams headed out to work on specified locations on the Scoggins Wash trail. Shovels, mattocks, loppers, clippers and radios were disseminated and packed onto horses. Several work sites had been identified on a prior recon ride. Three members, Jeanette, Debra and Tammy didn't bring a horse and instead doggedly worked at the parking lot, clearing shrubs, etc. to expand the usable space up to the fence line. Once graded, the parking lot could easily hold as many as 8 rigs parked side by side.

The majority of the workers returned to the parking lot by 4pm. Thankfully we had our veterinarian with us; one horse lost a shoe and another rubbed their face on a rock or tree limb and had a minor bleed. One rattlesnake was seen on the trail and an alert was sent to the other riders using our handheld radios.

It was a productive day with much needed improvements made on some difficult trail, cairns built, better routing identified and limbing done.

Thanks to those who came: Ron Johnson, Steve Julian, Doug West, Maggie Hatch, Kaylee Lamoreaux, Jeanette Blasdel, Debra Grise, Tammy Engeness, Deja Schweitzer, Zack Nichols, Bryson Zellerquist, Deann Fieselman, Freddy Dunn and Lin Hokana.



BCHUSW Meeting Minutes May 3, 2023

The **BCHUSW** chapter meeting was called to order May 3, 2023 at the St. George Community Center by President Lin Hokana. In attendance were: Lin Hokana, John West, Deja Schweitzer, Freddy Dunn, Larry Dunn, DeAnne Feiselman, Lyn Mattox, Steve Julian, Scott Ford, Alexis Cable, Mel and Marie Langness, Mike Schijf, Mindy Ellwanger, Monty Hawks and Jeanette Blasdell.

Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as published in the April newsletter.

Treasurer' Report: A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the April treasurer's report presented by Jeanette.

Old Business:

- Emergency Evacuation Plan in Dammeron Valley-Lin Hokana attended their April 22 meeting and they are getting closer to having an established plan.
- We have been approved for 501(c)(3) status.
- Fran Wilby has gotten a quote of \$52.50 per sign or cheaper if we buy in a quantity when we are ready to post trail etiquette signs in Zone 6 and other places. We will get back to her when we have a better idea of where we will be able to post them.

New Business:

- BCHSW Website- Currently we use the BCHU website to post information. It is quite antiquated and many of the links no longer connect to anything. Deja proposed we have our own. She will be chatting with Scott Ford and Amanda Heinritz to see what that may entail.
- 503(c)(3) Charitable Organization has been approved. This will also help for those that want to make donations.
- Utah Sales Tax Exemption Status- We have not yet been approved and are waiting for the paperwork to arrive.
- BCH Belt Buckles- John West had Maynard Buckles design a silver buckle for BCH's fiftieth anniversary. Two were purchased by State, taken to the national meeting, and were met with accolades. Sales continue.
- Our budget needs to be revised as we just received grant money from Zion. Lin, Deja, Freddy and Jeanette will get together and incorporate the recommended guidelines as recipients of this grant.
- We just picked up our new BCHUSW banner. It will be quite helpful advertising who we are during future projects.
- A forest service crosscut saw training is coming up again. Lin will have information if you are interested.

Committee Reports:

- Freddy and Lin met with Larry Velarde. Unfortunately corrals for Pine Valley will be on hold this year as six of our contacts with the forest department are leaving or are vacant.
- Mike Schijf and BCHUSW will be working together to install the stepover for Zone 6 that is near Reinmakers. Mike would like the help of equestrians that ride in that area to identify trails they use as shown by the maps he distributed.

- Gooseberry Mesa is once again accessible. The bike “bridge” has been removed, but currently what is left supporting the entrance is very dangerous. Deja took pictures along with a video. This information will be sent to Dawna with the BLM.
- May 16th at 6:30 all members are invited to a zoom meeting to recap the National Meeting. Freddy has sent out the link
- Zion National Park Loop Trail still needs work. Our May 14th Mt Carmel ride has been cancelled because the water is too high. That date will be used as a work day for the Zion National Park loop trail instead.

Ride Calendar:

May 13th Mt. Carmel Cancelled/ Zion Work Date Instead

June 10th Cottonwood/ Parking Lot Clean Up - Lin Hokana

August 12- Pine Valley/ Burger Burn to Follow

September- Navajo Lake-Jeanette Blasdel

October-21- Play Date At Reinmakers

November 11-Gooseberry Mesa- Deja Schweitzer

Educational Presentations:

Alexis Cable, Certified Horsemanship Association trainer described the organization's function and then talked about the role of being a trail boss which entailed safety tips when riding in a group.

Mike Schijf, Red Cliffs Desert Reserve Biologist spoke to the group about the history of the reserve and his job. We learned a lot more about the desert tortoise and handouts were given of where to report if we spot one.

Adjournment: 8:05

This would be in 2024 at best. Freddy Dunn and I also met with other Forest Service staff at a meet-and-greet event they held earlier this month. We seem to be meeting the right people to share our ideas with.

The June chapter meeting will have two speakers. Natalie Law will make a presentation on horse hydration. As an endurance rider, she knows well how to monitor your riding partner to keep them properly hydrated, so important for all of us to know with the coming summer season.

The second speaker is with The Wilderness Land Trust out of Helena, MT. This organization purchases private property sitting within public lands to get the land placed into the public land agency. There is acreage in the Enterprise area that they are about to acquire. This is truly a unique arrangement and should be quite informative. It's possible there may be a role for BCH-SW to play; come to the meeting and find out.

I just heard construction has started at Exit 13, the Bracken's loop trailhead. It should be done by fall with minimal impact on our ability to ride there during construction. And I hear the Canal Trail in Pine Valley is now cleared of trees and brush so the loop can be ridden.

Happy trails...Lin



Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

June 7, 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)

June 3rd cleanup cut brush at coal pits parking area 9 am. Approx 17 mi east of Zion Helicopters on SR 9.

June 10th Cottonwood Trailhead, In the saddle at 10, bring lunch

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.



Sponsor of the Month!



Chad Martin , Store Manager
Hurst Stores (ACE Hardware)
St. George

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 Blasdel 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

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

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: