



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

May 2024



From the Presidents Saddle



It's that busy time of year and we have a lot going on. Here's some of the activity:

June 1st is National Trails Day and our monthly ride will be at Pine Valley. This is a work day, burger burn and trail ride if time and energy permits such. Work on Saturday starts at 9 AM, briefing at the big trailhead parking lot. More details will be sent separately.

Freddy and I met with Braden Yardley with the US Forest Service about the corrals at the Pine Valley Equestrian Campground. Braden is looking into how we get permission to add new, metal corrals like we did two years ago. We will also be making some minor repairs

on the existing wood corrals on our June 1st work day so that they are safer and usable until they can be replaced. Having two corrals at each camp site is a long-term goal and project.

Who wants to visit Mount Trumbull in the Parashant Grand Canyon National Monument? The land manager would like to have our help with some maintenance and is offering to take us there to tour the site, etc. We've talked about this before and need to evaluate potential project. There's water for horses and room for camping.

Three Peaks Recreation Area outside of Cedar City – the BLM is creating an extensive equestrian trail system and an obstacle course. This is a work in progress and just getting started. They have asked for our input and assistance on design. For those close to Cedar City that would like to help, please reply to Freddy Dunn that you have interest and she will share the list with the project manager(s).

Several of us have met with Tim Walters from Zion NP about additional work on the Coal Pits and Chinle trails. We are still spending some of the grant money on materials for Zion NP and

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Remember Memorial Day!



NEXT MEETING

June 5th Community Building

See Page 7 for details



June 1st Pine Valley Corral Repairs, Burger Burn & Ride 9AM

See Page 7 for Details

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June 5th

Meeting at the Community Bldg 6:00PM Education Business to Follow

Carmel Junction Ride Story May 11, 2024 By Debbie Barton

Well, it was (ALMOST) a perfect ride!! We all drove to Mt. Carmel for the May BCH ride. There were 6 riders total, Trail boss Deja Schweitzer, David Barnhurst, Debbie Barton, Jarice Butterfield, and then 2 new friends from Idaho, Christina Sword and Lee Zundel. Several of the riders went out on Friday, parked and camped overnight by the corrals, and also rode Friday. (A very pleasant ride, I was told.) Deja had graciously received permission from the landowner of the Barracks Ranch to park our horse trailers on the private land to avoid riding a few miles down the road peppered with ATV and UTV traffic. Jarice and I met the group at the parking area on the Barracks ranch, and we were off.

There was some ATV traffic on the way out, but not too bad. We rode along the stream, with many wonderful water crossings. The weather starting out was very pleasant, slightly cool and jacket weather, clear blue skies. We passed another group of 4 riders, (2 horses, and 2 mules) in this area. We actually never saw them again, so we wondered what trail they rode from there ??? The trail was very nice. We then turned left into the cutoff for the slot canyons. There is a cable across the road to prevent motorized vehicles from going up into the wash. Someone had run over the cable in one area, so there was access, and there were some ATVs zooming around in that area. Again, not too awful or disruptive.

We rode up the lovely sand wash, sometimes going along the trail up over the ridges, and sometimes staying down in the wash. No further ATV traffic- Yeah! There was vegetation and small trees, some grass along the way. It started to get warmer, so we were peeling a layer off. We passed the entrance to Melwin Canyon. When we approached the entrance to Bay Bill slot canyon, we split up into 2 groups. Deja took our friends from Idaho up into the slot canyon while we waited. Then upon their return, Jarice, David, and I took our turn into the canyon. As always, it was gorgeous! A true slot canyon, with red walls rising straight up, much cooler, requiring another wardrobe change for most. Many wonderful photo opportunities! We did miss the rocks that Deja had put up for us at the easier turnaround spot, due to social distraction, and realizing some common friends. So we did have to back up in order to turn around. But no problems, all the horses did fine, with no issues. What good horses we have!

The way back was starting to look a little cloudy; rain was forecast to start at 2:00 or so. We got back to the entrance to the canyons, and this time, there was some really rambunctious ATV traffic, with some drivers rushing over the water crossings and revving their engines going fast. (I guess it is exciting to some to hear that engine rev!). The noise had almost all of our horses hyped up and anxious, so we took a trail up on the right side of the ridge going back to avoid the road. All was well, UNTIL..... There was some barbed wire across the trail, down on the ground. The first 2 horses passed over the wire with no incidents, but not the third. Lee's horse, Shadow, a very nice Arab/Quarter/grade horse got his hind leg tangled in the barb wire, and freaked out, a very difficult and scary situation. He finally broke free of the wire, but had several cuts on his back leg. David (OUR HERO), got off and cut the barb wire with his leatherman, and pulled it back for the rest of us to pass. Jarice managed to stay on her horse, which spun madly about 5 times from the commotion of Lee's horse. (Thank heavens for the one rein emergency stop). Great riding Jarice!!

We all stopped and between the 6 of us managed to get some bandages and Vetwrap to bandage his hind leg. The vetwrap had been in my saddlebags for a LONG time, so was pretty difficult to get unwrapped, but Deja managed. Shadow walked back to the trailers, being led for a while, but as he seemed to only be limping slightly, was able to ridden back. We had another confrontation from a group of ATV riders on the way back, but no more incidents. One rude ATV driver said "You're on a horse, maybe you should get off the road".

Update from Lee and Christine, Shadow was seen by the vet, wounds cleaned up, no stitches, and no swelling. They have been riding him, and he is doing well. Thank heavens, as this was the first week of a 4 week, state wide tour of their riding vacation.

This was all a good reminder to keep emergency supplies in your saddlebags, and to keep them updated!! On the drive back, we saw a herd of 5 bighorn sheep just hanging out, grazing in the field. Beautiful animals, and so amazing to see them so close. They were like,.... "Oh you want to take pictures? All right, we'll pose for you!!" So overall, an (ALMOST) perfect ride!!



Meeting Minutes – 6 PM, May 1, 2024

The **BCHUSW** chapter meeting was called to order May 1, 2024 at the St. George Community Center by President Lin Hokana. In attendance were: Lin Hokana, John West, Deja Schweitzer, Freddy Dunn, Jill Poll, Tammy Engeness, Tammy Ferney, Ron Johnson and Jeanette Blasdell

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

Treasurer' Report: Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the treasurer's report.

Old Business:

- IRS Form 990-N Income Tax Statement for 501 (c) (3) has been filed.
- 2024 NWSA Trail Partners Grant Application Period has passed. Upon further research it did not quite fit our goals.

New Business:

- Chapter Merchandise- the executive committee met, and it was decided to award merchandise to all new 2024 members. (One item for an individual membership, and two items for a family or patron membership.) Current members also have the opportunity to win, via a drawing, items by attending our meetings or work projects.
 - Wasatch Chapter Visitation-John West handed out the schedule of rides for their May 7-12 visit.
 - BCHA has announced "Light on the Land Actions and Ethics" documentation.
 - National Trails Day, June 1, 2024 - Many corrals in Pine Valley are in need of repair. Saturday morning will be set aside to work on them. A burger burn/pot luck will follow.
- Equestrian Campground Monitoring and E Bike Incident Report- Both can be found on the BCHA website. Members are encouraged to submit them when they see infractions.

Committee Reports:

- Coal Pitts/Scoggins- Lin reported that though he reached out for a meeting, none scheduled yet.
 - Congressional Subcommittee on Federal Lands Oversight Field Hearing- Deja, Tammy, Jeanette, Mel and Marie attended.
 - 3 Peaks Challenge Course-Freddy reported it currently on hold but we will be contacted when they can move forward.
 - Hurricane Trailhead at 600 North- Tammy has taken pictures. We will put gravel at the far corner.
 - Work Projects:
 - Steve Julian has agreed to get road grade for stepovers in need.
- Brett Allen, BLM Ranger will meet with Natalie Law about Cottonwood and Lin about Red Mountain.

Membership-DeAnn was not present for a report.

Education:

Doug West has busily scheduled the following:

June 5- Geologist Rick Miller, PhD

August 7, Amanda Rolland, Zion National Park

September 4, Amber Van Alfen, Bureau of Land Management Archeologist

October 2, Phillip Murdock, PhD, Professor Emeritus, BYU Idaho, Writer, Poet, Painter

Ride Calendar:

May 11 - Mt. Carmel

June 1 - Pine Valley work and burger burn

August 10 - Navajo Lake

September - Buckskin Gulch

October-19 - Play Date at Reinmakers

November 9 - Gooseberry Mesa- Donut Hole

January 11, 2025 – Rainbow Ravine

****Educational Presentation:**

Steve Snow and Bill McMurrin, Virgin River Land Preservation Association

Adjournment: 8:05

We have identified some parts of the Cottonwood trail and also Red Mountain loop trail that need maintenance and have dates their work crews are out there helping restore trails. There's more we can also do tentatively set with the land managers to review the needs.

Do you know of any step overs that need some base material added to them due to wear and tear? We've been trying to make a list of the locations so that we can have a work project day to make them safe again. Send your suggested trailheads that need help to Deja, Jeanette, Freddy or Lin.

The Cinder Knoll Trailhead in Hurricane now has a paved bike path between the road and fence line. This makes getting over the step over hazardous. We're working on a plan to correct this problem.

We started having educational sessions prior to the monthly business meeting to gain your interest in attending monthly meetings. We have had a great list of speakers and presentations. BUT it seems attendance has been dwindling. We need to decide if we should continue this practice or change things up.

The chapter needs someone to be our membership chair. This would not require a lot of time. Who has interest in helping get the word out about our chapter and perhaps working on some sort of member recruitment plan? Please send me an email.

At our last business meeting we mentioned BCHA still wants us to survey Pine Valley Equestrian Campground for campsites being used by non-equestrians. There is a form for this. There is also a BCHA form for reporting (negative) encounters with e-bikes. BOTH OF THESE FORMS CAN BE ACCESSED ON OUR WEBSITE (<https://www.bchusouthwest.org/>), just go to the bottom of the page and click on "Incident Reports": <https://www.bchusouthwest.org/incident-reports>.

The June 5th, bring a friend to the educational session and join us to hear geologist Rick Miller, PhD take us back in time, literally. He will be telling us about how our spectacular geological formations were created. Not only will his information be a special treat, we also plan to have something to eat.

Last meeting we used Facebook Live for the educational session and Zoom for the business meeting, a first for us. We hope to continue improving those processes. Remember no chapter ride in July. Happy Trails, Lin

The Wasatch Chapter, led by Richard Webb came down to visit and ride. The riders totaled 17 but not all rode all rides and they did divide and do alternative rides frequently. Our first ride on Wednesday was slated for Gunlock but the winds were very strong thus we changed to Red Mountain and rode what Doug West has called "Tick Wash" which is a trail on the far north west corner of the trails. It was way less windy and a fabulous ride. We totaled around 14 riders including newest members Tammy Ferney, Jill Poll together with old timers Ron Johnson, DVM retired and John West.

Thursday we rode Hop Valley in Zion Park with 12 riders separated into 2 groups leaving 40 minutes apart so as not to violate the Park rules. The weather was slightly cool and overcast and a perfect day for such a ride. The only 3 riders from our Chapter on that day was Tammy Ferney, Jill Poll and John West. It was a superb ride.

Friday was a glorious ride in Babylon (sin city of the past). We were missing our best trail guide for this ride, Deja but John West made it work. The ride had lots of favorable comments and photo sessions and all Wasatch stated it was their first time there and LOVED it. Again only Tammy Ferney, Jill Poll and John West represented out Chapter.

Later that evening Jill Poll, one of our newest members, hosted a magnificent sloppy Joe and appetizers dinner for Wasatch Chapter at her home. It was so generous, and all were so grateful for her generous hospitality. Saturday was a ride in Coal Pits and were were amazed at how great our work on the trails held-up... Doc Johnson, Monty Hawks, and John West attended the ride from our chapter 6 riders came from Wasatch and we did split up so as not to violate the 12 heartbeat rule... great weather!

Wasatch was on their own for Sunday.

Monday we concluded our ride day with a gorgeous ride in Zion's Lee Pass at la Verkin Creek. Only 2 riders from Wasatch attended with Tammy Ferney, Jill Poll and John West representing our Chapter on this brilliantly designed by God trail. We were praised by Wasatch members for helping them enjoy our choice trails. We were sad we had our own Chapter ride scheduled for this same weekend which no doubt, lessened our participation. Listening to their comments they reminded us once again how truly blessed we are to live in the most beautiful trail area in all of America if not the world.

John West

Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

June 5, 2024—St. George Community Bldg. Education 6:00PM—Business to Follow



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

June 1st on National Trails Day we will start by repairing some of the corals at the PV equestrian camp grounds, followed by a burger burn then a trail ride. Meet At Trailer Parking area 9AM.

Sponsor of the Month!



Bryce Valley Ranch RV & Horse Park

Pete & Sherry Jensen have created a beautiful and peaceful haven close to Bryce Canyon National Park and the Escalante National Staircase, well known for some of the most beautiful riding areas in the country. Pete & Sherry are horsemen themselves and have been supporters of the Back Country Horsemen for many years, with their experience they can help personalize a wonderful adventure for you and your group.

Please check out their website and book your next horse vacation! Be sure to thank Pete & Sherry for their generous support of the Back Country Horsemen and Southwest Chapter

Los Angeles 1900



Chapter contacts

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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: