

## Back Country Horsemen of Utah—Southwest Chapter



# Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

November 2024



### From the Presidents Saddle



It's the start of the year-end holiday season. Hope you have or had a great Thanksgiving. I know I'm thankful for all the friends I've made with our chapter and all the fun times we have shared. As I reflect on the past year, with the good and the difficult times, it reminds me to count your blessings; cherish each one.

The December annual membership drive and fund raiser is December 6, doors open at 5:50 PM. This has been one of the greatest events for our chapter each year and will be even better this year. Auction items will offer some new selections to compliment the many great donations from our loyal sponsors. There

are a lot of quality items. We are again having DUBS Barbeque cater the meal. The benefactor of this year's fund raising will be the Three Peaks Equestrian Park with obstacle course and the Cedar City 4H Equestrians. More information forthcoming.

We will have a very short business meeting – the election of officers for 2025. There is no chapter ride or chapter meeting in December other than this event. If you have not been to one of our fund raisers, plan on coming this year. It's a fun time. See the flier in the newsletter or our website [www.BCHUSOUTHWEST.ORG](http://www.BCHUSOUTHWEST.ORG). Be sure to RSVP so we can order the number of meals. MOST IMPORTANT: renew your membership now, before the event. It's easiest by going to [www.bchutah.org](http://www.bchutah.org) and select Join BCHU, Southwest chapter, Electronic Membership Application and at Membership Status select either Join or Renew. Doing this online in advance will save everyone time during the event registration. Members' meals are then no cost. By the way, National has increased the 2025 membership rates by \$5.00. Continued Pg 6

**January 8th**  
**Meeting at the Community Building 6:00PM**



### NEXT MEETING

**Community Building**

**See Page 7 for details**



**January 11th Rainbow Ravine**

**See Page 7 for Details**

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## Donut Hole Trail Ride, November 9, 2024

by Rick Schmalz, Mountain Springs, NV

It was a crisp and sunny morning as 13 riders assembled in the Red Mountain Trailhead trailer parking area to embark on colorful and scenic rides. The group split in two with the first group (Doug West, Kaylee Lameraux, Ron Johnson, Jarice Butterfield, Rick Schmalz, Tammy West and John West) out going to Donut Hole and then looping back on a different trail. This was the ride for the thrill seekers. The second group (Lin Hokana, Julie Dunn, Jeanette Blasdel, April Kemp, Ann Guhman and Debbie Grise) went out to Donut Hole then returned over the same route taking a more leisurely approach to the day.

Pre-ride safety briefings for the two groups were provided by John West and our President, Lin Hokana, followed by riders' introductions and where we all hail from. We all signaled we were ready and off we went.

Around 10am we set out northwest into the forest with riders in coats engaged in lots of chatter as our horses warmed up in the ultra-fine sand footing. The air of late fall was invigorating, and the broadleaf trees were showing their fall colors.

The fine sand footing began to give way to more rocky areas as we started climbing while enjoying magnificent vistas of the southern Utah mountain ranges. The horses were warmed up and most of the early morning crispness had yielded to a perfect fall day for riding in the backcountry.

After a brief regroup, we began a more rigorous climb with many switchbacks and some rocky footing which caused our horses to think more carefully about where they were going to step. The ascent was underway with breaks in the trees which revealed the spectacular vistas of the mountains surrounding us.

With most of the climb behind us, the terrain had become challenging for the horses. My horse, a normally sure-footed Nevada mustang, miss-stepped placing his weight too high on a side sloping rock. In a flash his foreleg was buckling under him, and we were going down.

Several minutes later with my wounds trail bandaged by fellow riders we remounted and finished our climb. While bloodied and bruised my horse and I are fine. Thanks for the back country first aid.

The two groups gathered back at the trailer parking area around noon before we all headed off to a Burger Burn hosted by Jarice Butterfield, and her family, a couple miles down the road in Dammeron Valley. Thanks to John and Tammy West for cooking the burgers. We also enjoyed sides and desserts. What a great way to finish this marvelous day. Thank you Jarice and Bret.

Trail riding is always an adventure with an ever-present element of danger. I was reminded of this as I limped to my truck to begin my drive home. I feel privileged to ride with the Southwest Utah Backcountry Horsemen. See you next ride.

Happy Trails...

Editors Note:

The Donut Hole was the last ride John Rex (*one of the founding members of our chapter*) rode before his passing only days later.







★ Back Country Horsemen of Utah ★  
Southwest Chapter



# Annual Dinner & Fundraiser

Friday, December 6th, 2024

Doors Open at 5:30pm

Dixie High School Commons

*Please RSVP by Nov. 28<sup>th</sup>  
at [bchusouthwest.org](http://bchusouthwest.org)  
or scan the QR code below*

Net Proceeds of this  
year's fundraiser will  
benefit the Three Peaks  
Equestrian Park and Iron  
County and Washington  
County 4-H Clubs



Catered by DUB's Barbeque!

Membership (includes dinner)

\$35 - Single Membership (1 meal)

\$45 - Family Membership (2 meals)

Additional Plate \$15 per plate

**Meeting Minutes November 6, 2024**

**Members Present:** Lin Hokana, Freddy Dunn, Deja Schweitzer, Ann Guhman, Eliza Edgar., Jeanette Blasdel, DeAnn Fieselman, Tammy Lineback, Fran Wilby, Tammy West, John West, Dvar Bulloch, Grace-Wathen, Debbie Grise, Salina Butterfield, Jarice Butterfield, Kathy Duvall (Zoom), Rick Schmalz (Zoom), and Keith Wheeler (Zoom)

**Call to Order:** Lin Hokana at 6PM

**Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions**

**Minutes:** Motion to accept as published in the newsletter made and approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Jeanette Blasdel – motion made and seconded to approve the report

**Old Business:**

[Update](#) - Annual Fund Raiser and Membership Drive December 6, 2024 – Renew now, please and RSVP for number attending.

**New Business:**

**Purchase Grapevine Crossing signage** – members agreed that the organization should purchase signage.

**Purchase Trail Courtesy signs** – members agreed that Lin should purchase signage. He will spend around \$1,500.

**Election of Officers – Slate as Follows**

President - John West as President

Vice President - Lin Hokana

Treasurer – Jeanette Blasdel

Secretary – Co-Secretaries Jarice Butterfield and Debbie Grise

**Burger Burn** – a burger burn will take place after the November 11-9-24 Red Mountain Ride at Jarice Butterfield's home near Red Mountain at 1pm – food will be provided: 526 N Meadow Drive, Dameron Valley.

**Committee Reports**

**Liaison to local public lands agencies:** Freddy Dunn and Lin Hokana

Hurricane Trailhead at 600 North – Tammy/Jeanette/Lin No report

Southwest Regional Council - October meeting

Freddy provided the group updates. She indicated that there are many new projects planned and that she requested that durable surface trails for equines be considered for new projects (such as the new trails being considered near Kanab and Ivins).

Dixie National Forest re Pine Valley projects short and long term.

Freddy recently had a phone meeting with Branden from Pine Valley. In the short-term, some changes will be made to recreation.gov. There will be filters that ask how many horses are in the party. If there are none, patrons will be re-directed to other camp sites, at check-out patrons will again be told that the site is for equestrian use only, and a request was made to make sites 11 and 14 reservable versus first come first serve (that will make 8 reservable sites and one for late arrivals).

A long-term goal of making the entire campground equestrian only (add sites 4 -7) was discussed in her meeting. This would take a lot of funding and a NEPA study would have to take place which would cost \$25,000+. The question was posed as to whether or not the organization would like to raise funds for a NEPA study. This will be further discussed in the future.

**Zoom Meeting Equipment:** Jarice Butterfield requested that the organization purchase a Zoom meeting system. She and Deja will bring back further information on costs, etc. to the next meeting.

Education: Doug West

January 8, 2025

**Ride Calendar:**

November 9      Red Mountain Donut Hole

January 11      Rainbow Ravine at Meadow Valley (2-hour drive) – Keith Wheeler will be riding the trail and providing a map, etc. prior to the ride. This trail is a level 1.

(Continued from Page 1)

Our chapter decided to maintain our current rates (no increase), making us the least expensive chapter in Utah. I just attended a BCHU meeting and see our chapter still has the most members and memberships, although fewer than last year. Let's continue our good fortune by inviting others to join our chapter. (single \$35 = 1 meal, family \$45 = two meals, youth \$15 = 1 meal) and additional meal tickets for non-members are still just \$15 per person.

Happy trails.....Lin



## Calendar of Events

### CHAPTER MEETINGS :

**January 8, 2025—St. George Community Building 6:00PM**

**Come and Participate in our Chapters Success**



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

**Rainbow Ravine January 11, 2025 In the Saddle 10AM**

Take the Glendale, Moapa, SR168 ( that's the exit just passed the Logandale exit which you take when you are going to Valley of Fire).

Slow down for the exit and then make a left-hand turn to go to State route 168. You will turn right onto state Route 168 and go 2.6 miles turn right on Meadow Valley Road (just before you go over the railroad tracks). 7.8 miles on pavement the continue straight on the dirt road for 2.1 miles. Just passed the closed road sign you make a right hand turn and follow the gravel road to the parking area.

The complete ride is 10 miles long and takes about four hours. There is a narrow, 1 mile out 1 mile back, section that some riders may choose to not do. There will be someone to lead those that skip the narrow section and take them to the petroglyphs.

Easy, fairly flat, decent footing. Colorful mud hills and erosion formations. An old stone cabin and incredible petroglyphs.

If you want to ride the narrow section, your horse must be good with confined spaces, tumbleweeds, and some easy scrambling. No dogs in the narrow section.

## Sponsor of the Month!



### Chapter contacts

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

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