

Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members



From the Presidents Saddle



The unhappy news in our chapter is that Vic & Jan Middleton are selling their ranch, horses, goats and whatever and moving up north. They just want to have the freedom to travel about without being tied down by animals. Oakley is moving too! That's their story and they are sticking to it.

Not any movement on the bridge project as Nick Glidden, District Ranger has been called out on fires for several weeks.

BLM has confirmed that they have secured funding to remodel the

Cottonwood trailhead. They will contact us when the design is complete for our comments.

I was contacted by the folks at Zion Nat'l Park regarding redesign of the entrance gates. We are on their contact list for comment on projects. We appreciate that they are keeping us in the loop.

Freddy Dunn was part of a 6 person delegation who went to Washington DC to state our opposition to two bills regarding the Northern Corridor. Please read her report in our chapter minutes pg 6. Thank you Freddy!

Start thinking about our Annual Dinner/Auction on December 7th.

Happy trails,

Paul

NEXT MEETING

Oct 9th, 6:30PM Community Building
See Page 8 for details



Monthly Ride!

October 13th
Snow Canyon

November 10th
Beaver Dam Wash

December 7th Annual Dinner Auction

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Ride Story	2
Ride Pictures	3
Onaqui Wild Horses	4-5
Meeting Minutes	6-7
Calendar—Dog herd of the Month	8
Membership Application	9

October 9th

Meeting at the Community Bldg 6:30PM



BCH Ride at Water Canyon

September 8, 2018

By

Paul Sloane

This ride was organized as a work ride to repair the hard crossing that we installed about three and a half years ago in Water Canyon. We were to muster in the meadows below the trailhead to accommodate our rigs. I knew in advance that Roshelle Bromley and her friends were going to start at the equestrian campground to make it a longer ride for them. Lin Hokana and I were at the meadow early and had saddled up our horses waiting for more rigs to arrive. It was close to ten AM and no one had arrived so we decided to drive up to the trailhead a ride from there. We were getting ready to leave when Maria Harris arrived and the three of us headed out.

We arrived at the trail crossing and began diverting the water around the work area so we would not have to stand in water while repairing the crossing. Once the diversion was complete we began digging around in the crossing area and everywhere we poked we kept hitting rock. We discovered that the crossing was not damaged at all. Apparently the stream had carried soil onto the hard crossing and simply buried it, then cows or whatever had kicked rocks on top of the soil making it look like the crossing was torn up. We set about scraping the soil off the hard crossing stones and removing the loose rocks. We then re-diverted the water flow onto it's original path and used the water to wash the hard crossing to fully expose the stone bed of the crossing.

About that time Dave & Pat Hill arrived on their horses just in time for lunch. We all found a shady spot with something to sit on and proceeded to eat our lunches and visit. When we headed back down the trail we met up with Roshelle ,Michelle Dammann, and Tamera Burton who were surprised to meet us coming down so soon. It was because the repair job turned out to be minimal.

When Lin and I were in the meadow before the ride two guys in a pickup stopped and told us that they were going to be shooting and wanted to know if we would be where they were going to shoot. I said that we were going up the canyon and he pointed to an area that they were going to shoot against a hillside. Well it turns out where they went was right where the trail is that Roshelle and friends rode through. The shooters were surprised to see the horses come through and the girls were surprised to see the shooters. The men stopped their shooting while our riders passed.

When planning our rides in the mountains one must be aware that Deer hunting starts in October and hunters will be out sighting in their guns now and until hunting season starts. Muzzleloader season is September 26th thru October 6th, then Rifle deer season is October 10th -14th and October 20th thru 28th. All BLM and Forest land is open to shooting unless otherwise posted. It is only logical that shooters would check trail maps before selecting a place to shoot, but the reality is, that probably will not happen. Be careful out there!





Onaqui Wild Horses

My granddaughter Jessica Berdaquer who was a former member of our chapter has for the past seven years since leaving southern Utah been photographing and studying the Onaqui Wild Horse herd located west of Toole, Utah. Over those seven years she has developed a great understanding of the herds way of life in the wild, what stallions and what mares produced what colts or fillies. She has followed the family units and watched the youngsters grow into mature horses themselves.

Being passionate about the plight of wild horses she chose this subject for her classes through Western Governors University. She wrote three papers; Wild Horses Freedom Plight, Freeing America's Wild Horses, and Roaming Free. I want to share with you her excellent photography and excerpts from her papers, I think you will find it interesting. Please note that I have not brought the contents of this article to the attention of BCHU or BCHA and it does not reflect any official or un-official position of the BCHU or BCHA on wild horses. *(just saying)*



Excerpts from **Roaming Free**

by

Jessica Berdaguer

Currently, most of America's wild horses live on 26.9 million acres (BLM, n.d.) operated by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). According to the BLM the horses are protected and managed under a piece of legislation called the "Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act," enacted into law in 1971 (BLM, n.d.). The legislation states: "To require the protection, management, and control of wild free-roaming horses and burros on public lands." (BLM, n.d.) As this legislation calls to attention the number one purpose of the act is protection of the wild horses and burros. The legislation also states that the wild horses are, "... living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West." (BLM, n.d.) It is abundantly clear that when the law was drafted and ratified the intent was to protect the symbolic creatures of the fabled west.

One of the more uncontrollable factors putting wild horses in danger is drought. According to Drought.gov data in 2018 approximately 66.02% of the Western RCC is some level of drought. These persistent conditions bring about a couple of risks to the wild horses namely, reduced access to a vital resource and loss of habitat and consumable vegetation due to increased risk of wildfires. Horses need to consume 5-10 gallons of water a day (Swinker, n.d.). Choosing a median of 8 gallons per day one horse can consume 2,920 gallons a year. Small herds can be a hundred horses with larger herds numbering over a thousand. It is an effortless conclusion that the horses require considerable amounts of amount to survive. Horses, like most mammalian species, travel to water sources 1-2 times per day which adds to the strain of vegetation near watering holes.

Meanwhile the lack of water translates into drier plains, resulting in fields of tinder ready to ignite from lightning, a hot muffler, and even a shard of glass that the sun hits just right. According to Science Direct, "Moreover, fire seasons may be getting longer due to warming and the earlier onset of the spring fire season." (Science Direct, 2016) It can be observed from recent news stories that wild fires are becoming larger, more destructive, and harder to contain than previously known. One example of the effect of the that a single wildfire could have on one herd of wild horses is the Dugway fire of 2017. The Onaqui Herd Management Area (HMA) is approximately 206,252 acres according to the BLM. In the summer of 2017 a wildfire ripped through the Onaqui herds prime summer grazing area burning approximately 38,000 acres, according to the U.S. Army, accounting for almost 18.4% of the horse's range (U.S. Army, 2017). The crippling effects of drought have a far-reaching ripple effect on the lands and occupying species.

The wild horses are in a desperate battle for their future. First, the horses are in a battle with nature during a drought that appears to have become the new normal, threatening the ability for the horses to survive. The next hurdle the horses face is the threat of slaughter as the legislators who decide their fate sit in faraway offices, never observing the familial bonds of the horses. In addition, the horses are under threat of losing their freedom by being imprisoned in holding facilities which are a far cry from the wide-open ranges they are accustomed to inhabiting. Finally, the horses are under threat of range competition with cattle. The cattle have the ranchers voice to fight for the rangelands while the horse is voiceless. It is certain that the horses are in imminent danger from many angles and need more protections to ensure their future. Granting much needed protection is not a new idea or concept as it is already afforded to the horses by Federal law. It is only logical that these symbols of the American west deserve a dedicated effort to reinstate the horses rights.

BCHUSW Meeting Minutes

The **BCHUSW** chapter meeting was called to order at 6:42 PM September 11, 2018 at the St. George Community Building by President Paul Sloane. In attendance were: Roshelle Bromley, Vic Middleton, Keith Christensen, Freddy Dunn, Lin Hokana, and Paul Sloane

Minutes: A Motion was made and passed to accept the minutes as published in the August newsletter

Treasurer's Report: There was no treasurer's report this month. It was conveyed that there no changes from last month's report.

Report from National: Freddy Dunn

Early this month, I was part of a 6 person delegation who went to Washington DC to state our opposition to H.R. 5597 and S. 3297 - the bills to create the Northern Corridor. Hosted by Conservation Lands Foundation, the other members were from Conserve Southwest Utah, The Desert Tortoise Council and The Shivwits Band of Paiutes. Besides visiting with staffers from Congressman Stewart's office and Senator Lee's office, we visited 6 other offices of members of the respective subcommittees for these bills. Together, we expressed our reasons for our opposition (and in one case we were told, "We didn't know there was any opposition") Our purpose was to ask them NOT to move the bills forward until all other alternatives had been completely explored. Some of our visits were received well; one very clearly told us that they had to believe what the Washington County Commissioners told them. So, if for no other reason, the fact that we went all the across the country to express our opposition to the bill, we all felt that we had been heard and possibly made a difference. It was really an amazing experience to be in the halls of Congress. Some of our meetings were in small conference rooms, one was in the hallway and one was in the actual Committee Hearing room. All of the people we met with were cordial and listened attentively - even when they disagreed. So - we'll see what happens next. If you have any questions about my trip, please contact me

Old Business:

- Still looking for a tech savvy web page person. Roshelle mentioned that Fran Wilby may be interested when she returns this fall.
- Bridge project Up-date: Nick Glidden is still out on fires therefore there are no up-dates at this time.
- Water Canyon hard crossing – Turns out that the crossing was in good shape, just covered with dirt.
- Northern Corridor – Freddy Dunn attended a special meeting in Washington DC (see above)
- Repair south stepover box. Freddy and Larry will go up and replace the soil in the box.
- Cottonwood trailhead remodel – BLM has confirmed funding and in the design stage now. They will forward designs to us for comment when available.

New Business:

- Paul pointed out that there will be National Trails Day events on September 22nd.
- Paul reported that he received a call from the Zion Nat'l Park staff indicating that they are in the process of remodeling the entrance gates and asked if the BCH would have any input. We appreciate being on their radar for comment.
- Paul reported that the water tank at first water has been damaged. He need to get up the hill to assess the damage.

(Continued pg 7)

- Trail conditions of Red Mountain trails was discussed. Consensus was, that they look good considering.
- Exit 13 stepover is backfilled with dirt to the top of the stepover.

Ride Calendar:

- October 13th – Snow Canyon & Burger Burn
- November 10th – Beaver Dam Wash. Open riding not nose to tail
- December 7th – Annual Dinner Auction – Paul to verify date with Angie @ St George city.

Announcements:

- Vic and Jan Middleton have announced that they selling their horses, cows, goats, etc and moving up north. They will really be missed!

Adjourn:

Motion was made and passed to adjourn at 7:40 P



Jessica Berdaguer



Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

- October 9th—St. George Community Bldg. 6:30pm

Come and participate in our decisions for the chapter!



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

- October 13th—Snow Canyon (From the overlook off Hwy 18) in the saddle at 10AM—
Bring lunch
Directions: Take Hwy 18 north and proceed .8mi past the large Winchester Hills sign, turn left to the overlook. From the north take the first road past the Snow Canyon entrance, turn right.
- November 10th—Beaver Dam Wash. Open riding, not nose to tail

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.



Dog herd of the Month!



Chapter contacts

President: Paul Sloane	688-8919 psloane@infowest.com
Vice President: Vic Middleton	879-9597 vicjan@skyviewmail.com
Secretary: Jeanette Blasdell	818-415-1305 jzblasdell@gmail.com
Treasurer: Judith Mayfield	656-0959 sixagl@awinets.com
Newsletter: Paul Sloane	688.8919 psloane@infowest.com
Rides: Roshelle Bromley	313-7518 romanrider@gmail.com
Website: www.bchu.com—Click on Southwest link	

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