



Southwest Cairn

Marking the trails for our members

September 2024



From the Presidents Saddle



Our annual October play day is not far away and this year will be a unique opportunity you don't want to miss. On October 12th, the Three Peaks Equestrian Recreation Area will have the Grand Opening of the Bolander obstacle course and we are all invited. The Cedar City 4H equestrian group gets credit for having this funded and installed. One of the elements of BCHA's Mission Statements is, "To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage." And getting our youth involved with horse activities, with the intention of mentoring

them in back country activities, is paramount for the growth and survival of our organization. Teaching rider and equine on how to navigate obstacles is a fundamental in building the relationship with your horse and for building confidence of both horse and rider. WHAT BETTER WAY to gain that experience than navigating an obstacle course with various degrees of difficulty! This is why our chapter has jumped at the chance to be involved with the 4H group and the Cedar City BLM staff. Plus, this obstacle course is a feature that will draw people from all over. Come and enjoy.

Saturday, October 12th, 2024 is the Grand Opening and several of us have already ridden there to check it out. See the flier in the newsletter or our website (bchusouthwest.org) for details. We need members to come enjoy the day. Bring your horse or mule, your kids, their ponies and your riding cohorts to come experience a professionally designed bunch of obstacles. There is land set aside here for equestrian trails, which need to be established as well. Please RSVP on our website so we know how many to expect for meals, parking, etc www.bchusouthwest.org (Con't page 4)



October 2nd
Meeting at the Community Building 6:00PM

NEXT MEETING

Community Building

See Page 6 for details



October 12, 2024

Three Peaks Equestrian Recreation Area
Bolander Obstacle Course

See Page 6 for Details

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The BCHU – SW Chapter September 14 Ride to Buckskin Gulch

by Jarice Butterfield

Participants In Ride: Jay and Angie Smith, Debbie Grise, Rick and Sheryl Schmalz, Jeanette Blasdel, Deja Schweitzer, Desi and Hazel Zetterquist, Eliza Edgar, Aspen Rider, Debbie Barton and Jarice Butterfield.

Another group of friends and members followed along a little later: Brooke Weaver (Guide), Amanda and Kailey Heinritz, and some friends from Reinmakers' Ranch.

Once again, the Schmalz' earned the award of traveling the farthest to be with the group (five hours) for "horse therapy". They must really like us!

It was a beautiful day and great ride through the gulch. Several members (11 all total) camped at the Paria River Ranch Campground the night before. Many were lucky enough to catch a ride that evening at Long Canyon and other areas.

The next morning the 11 members were joined by Debbie Barton and Jarice Butterfield for a total of 13 people and 14 horses. The group was saddled up and ready to ride near 9am. The fearless, energetic leader, Jeanette Blaisdell lead the group as the trail boss. The group was worried about encountering heat mid-day, so the ride was moved forward. There had been reports of earlier monsoon activity, and the parts of the trail that meandered through the canyon showed evidence of recent flooding. Some reported that there were far more rocks in the canyon than usual, which were most likely carried down by the recent rains or flash floods. There were spots where there was still water and mud in the canyon portion of the ride, and it made for a narrow adventure on horseback. All horses made it safely through the precarious spots with no injuries or difficulties.

The group met up in a beautiful shady, covered ravine surrounded by the massive red rock walls to eat a peaceful lunch. The horses all quietly stood and grazed on what little forage they could find while their riders stood or rested on the rocks while visiting and eating.

The weather was still mild for the return, and everyone made their way though the winding canyon with convening the ride out in the open space. It was a slow, peaceful ride for the most part. The ride was about 4 hours total from start to finish. Buckskin Gulch is definitely a favorite future spot and was worth the 2 hours plus drive!

For those of you that have not recently joined one of our group rides, come and join us for the October Trail Challenge at Three Peaks Equestrian Mountain Trail world class obstacle course designed by the famous Mark Bolender to have some fun.



Long Canyon



By the time you read this the Grand Opening of the Grapevine Crossing (aka Exit 13 or Bracken's trailhead) newly revised trailhead will have been held. That was on September 27th and several members attended to be part of the photo shoot, showing off the equestrian parking lot, which is separate from the 90 or so parking spots for autos. There are new restrooms with a drinking fountain. The equestrian parking lot will soon have a dumpster there for cleaning up after your horse. There currently is no water provided for horses but there's a plan for a hydrant to be installed. This is a nicely constructed trailhead for trailers as well as for hikers and bikers and our chapter was invited to provide input on its design, which we greatly appreciate.

Our annual fund raiser and membership drive will be Friday, December 6th. Mark it on your calendar now. The organizing committee has met and is putting action steps in place. We will be asking members to again help solicit businesses for donations so be ready to volunteer when asked by one of the team captains.

As a reminder one more time, dogs are not allowed off leash in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve. It's a National Conservation Area so their rules apply. Additionally, Washington County has an ordinance requiring dogs in any public area, trails included, must be on a leash. And it's the chapter's policy to not allow dogs on chapter rides. Safety for all comes first.

Happy trails... Lin



Tortoise on Bracken's Loop

Spotted by Jeanette Blasdell






Three Peaks Mountain Trail Challenge & Halloween Costume Contest - Clinic

Saturday, October 12

Three Peaks Recreation Area Equestrian Trailhead

- 10:00 a.m. – Clinic by Camri Johnson J Family Equine
- 11:00 a.m. In-Hand Trail Challenge
- 12:00 p.m. – Chili Potluck
- 1:00 p.m. – Mounted Trail Challenge
- 2:30 p.m. Halloween Costume Parade!

Join us for a day of fun with the Southwest Chapter of Back Country Horsemen! Camri Johnson with J Family Equine will be doing a clinic for the 4-H youth and interested adults; cost is \$15 each (venmo @jfamilyequine). Fun prizes, grab bags, sponsored by Redmond Equine!

Sign up to attend at bchusouthwest.org or use the QR Code:







Extension
UtahStateUniversity

Note: Sandwiches will be served in lieu of Chili

Meeting Minutes – 6 PM, September 4, 2024**Call to Order: Lin Hokana**

Pledge of Allegiance and Introductions - Attending: Debra Grise, Jeanette Blasdell, DeAnn Fieselman, Tammy Ferney, John West, Deja Schweitzer, Ann Guhman, Freddy Durr, Tammy Lineback, Eliza Edgar, Dana Millsap, Ronald Johnson and via Zoom: Desire Zetterquist, Fran Wilby, Keith Wheeler, Rick Schmalz and Sheryl Schmalz.

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

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

Old Business: none

New Business:

Three Peaks Equine Recreation Area October play day 10/12/2024.

BCHU-SW will be getting goodie bags and prizes for the event's obstacle course challenges and for costume contests.

Registration for both 4H and chapter members is via our website. The number of 4H participants needs to be estimated. Deja and Lin will communicate with Christine for more details.

Our members can participate in the day's activities and/or be helpers with youth navigating the obstacle course.

A motion to set a budget of UP TO \$500 was made, seconded and approved to buy awards and food (dessert and beverages).

Annual Fund Raiser and Membership Drive December 6, 2024

Organizational planning session will be held on Sept. 11 at noon at

RSVP for chapter rides via our website (bchusouthwest.org)

Grapevine Crossing Grand Opening will be held on Sept 27, 2024. Lin will communicate with land manager about signage plan or needed for the equestrian parking area and the opportunity for our chapter to have horses at the grand opening event.

Committee Reports – nothing to report

Ride Calendar:

- September 14 Buckskin Gulch
- October 12 Three Peaks (obstacle course and trail)
- November 9 Red Mountain: Donut Hole and/or loop
- January 11 Rainbow Ravine (2-hour drive)

Announcements:

Adjourn: 7:15pm

Calendar of Events

CHAPTER MEETINGS :

October 2, 2024—St. George Community Building 6:00PM

Come and Participate in our Chapters Success



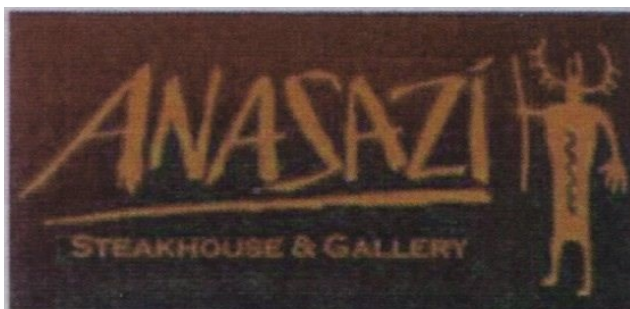
**CHAPTER RIDES: Every 2nd Saturday of each month
(unless specified otherwise)**

October 12th—Three Peaks Mountain Trail Challenge & Halloween Costume Contest—Clinic (See flier page 4 for details)

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 trail-head will be on your right.



Sponsor 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 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: _____