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Hi-Line & Hobbles By-Laws
BY-LAWS
HI-LINE & HOBBLER CHAPTER
OF
BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF UTAH

17 February 2011
ARTICLE I – NAME

The name of this organization, which is non-profit, shall be the Hi-Line & Hobbles Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Utah.

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization shall be:

1. To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness areas.
2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government, state, and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources.
4. To educate, encourage, and solicit active participation in the use of the backcountry resources by stock users and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new BCHA organizations.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership shall be open to anyone who is committed to the purposes of this organization as stated in ARTICLE II.

Section 2. Membership shall correspond to the calendar year – January 1 through December 31.

Section 3. Classes of Members: There shall be four classes of memberships, designated as (1) individual membership, (2) family membership, (3) patron membership, and (4) benefactor membership.

Section 4. Individual Membership: Individual membership is defined as one (1) person eighteen (18) years of age or older. An individual member is entitled to one (1) vote.

Section 5. Family Membership: Family membership is defined as those individuals within one (1) immediate family unit (parents and dependent children). Each family membership is entitled to two (2) votes.

Section 6. Patron Membership: A Patron membership is defined as an individual, company, or association interested in supporting the purposes stated in Article II. Each Patron member is entitled to two (2) votes. The patron pays a higher amount of dues than the family.

Section 7. Benefactor Membership: A Benefactor membership is defined as an individual, company, or association interested in supporting the purposes stated in Article II. Each Benefactor member is entitled to two (2) votes. The benefactor pays a higher amount of dues than the patron.

Section 8. Membership fees for all classes may change from time to time by majority vote of the membership.

Section 9. Individuals or family entities that wish to belong to more than one local chapter must pay the applicable yearly membership fee for each chapter to which they choose to be affiliated. There are no joint memberships.

ARTICLE IV – DUES

Section 1. Dues shall be determined by majority vote of the membership. Dues shall be payable on the first day of January of each year. Dues shall be considered delinquent when not paid by the 28th of February each year. Delinquency in payment of the annual dues shall remove a member and said member shall relinquish all voting rights and privileges.

Section 2. The holding of any office or membership on any committee shall be contingent upon the member being current in paying their membership dues.

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Section 3. New members can join the organization for the current year between 1 January and 1 November of each year. Any new members joining after 1 November will be registered for the next year.

ARTICLE V – VOTING

Section 1. Only members [dues paid] may exercise the right to vote on matters of chapter business.

Section 2. Patron and Benefactor members may, at the time of membership application or renewal, designate one or two persons who will be considered their voting members.

Section 3. A simple majority of members, voting when the organization is in session, shall be required to conduct that business requiring group action, providing a quorum is present. Twelve [12] members shall constitute a quorum for transaction of legal business.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular meetings shall be established and held at a time and place decided by a majority vote of the membership.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President or upon written request signed by any five [5] voting members.

Section 3. Notice shall be given to voting members of all meetings at least one week before the meeting is held.

ARTICLE VII – OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the organization shall consist of a president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as the voting membership may create. This group of officers forms the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The election of officers shall be conducted at the November annual meeting in accordance with ARTICLE IX of these by-laws.

Section 3. Any vacancy in an office shall be filled by appointment of the Executive Committee except for that of President, which shall automatically be filled by the Vice President.

Section 4. At least one (1) director but not more than two (2) shall be elected by the membership at the annual meeting to serve as the chapter representative to the state Board of Directors.

Section 5. There must be at least three officers present for voting by the Executive Committee. A majority vote is required on all decisions.

ARTICLE VIII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The power and authority of this organization shall be vested in membership. The officers shall conform to the wishes and instructions of the membership; and subject to the rules of this document, manage and execute the affairs of the organization. When the organization is not in session, the officers shall have all needful authority to manage the activities of the organization.

Section 2. The President, or his representative, shall preside at all meetings. The President shall appoint committee chairmen and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The President shall serve as, or appoint a committee chairperson, the web coordinator with the state and/or national organization. The President may co-sign checks for the disbursement of funds. The President shall be responsible for all communication between the state and national organization.

Section 3. The Vice President shall perform the duties of the President when absent, or by request. The Vice President may also co-sign checks for the disbursement of funds.

Section 4. The Secretary shall record and keep the minutes of all regular, special and officer meetings, be responsible for collecting and filing the volunteer hours from the committee chairperson that records all volunteer hours, and perform such other duties as pertains to this office. The secretary may also co-sign checks for the disbursement of funds.

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Section 5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial control of all organization funds. The Treasurer shall give financial reports to the membership on a regular basis, shall keep financial records of income and expenditures suitable for audit, shall assist in the formation of an annual budget, shall collect dues, shall register and keep current membership lists. The Treasurer shall have an annual audit of the records completed and read the audit report in the membership at the regular January meeting. The Treasurer shall be one of the co-signers of the checks for the disbursement of funds.

Section 6. The organization director[s] shall represent the organization at state board meetings. The director shall be responsible for the flow of information to and from the state organization.

ARTICLE IX – ELECTIONS

Section 1. Officers and directors shall be elected at the November annual meeting and will assume office on 1 January of the next year. Officers shall serve from 1 January through 31 December of that same year. Officers shall serve no more than two consecutive terms. Directors may serve multiple terms.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall appoint a nominating committee of at least three members at least two months prior to the general election.

Section 3. The nominating committee shall select a slate of candidates for the officers and director positions to be voted on at the general election. The slate shall be presented at the regular November meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the election.

ARTICLE X – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees necessary for the functioning of the organization shall be created by the approval of the Executive Committee. Committees can be both standing [permanent] and temporary. Committees should be created to meet the individual needs of the organization. Various members should fill these committees. Also it may not be necessary to have all these committees based on the number of members or the interest of the members. The following list of committees is a suggestion:

(a) *Public Lands*: This committee is key for working with the land management agencies on issues of both local and national importance.

(b) *Activities*: This committee plans fun and interesting activities for the organization.

(c) *Service Projects*: This committee can be used for recommending projects that the organization can be involved with and keep track of volunteer hours

(d) *Rides*: This committee will organize and notify members of weekly and monthly rides.

(e) *Education*: This committee will be involved in educating the membership on various backcountry-training issues.

(f) *Public Relations*: This committee can communicate with newspapers, radio, various agencies, and retail stores about BCHU.

(g) *Membership*: This committee has the purpose of finding new members, getting previous member to rejoin the organization and welcoming new members.

(h) *Communications*: This committee prepares and distributes the organization's monthly newsletter, e-mail announcements and keeps the organization's web site current.

(i) *Health and Safety*: The purpose of this committee is to promote health and safety issues for both humans and animals in the organization

Section 2. The President, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint committee chairpersons. Vacancies of a committee chairperson shall be filled by appointment by the President with approval of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Committee chairpersons shall select members as necessary to accomplish the functions of the committee.

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ARTICLE XI – REMOVAL

Section 1. Any officer or member whose conduct has not been in the best interests of the organization may be removed from participation in organization activities by a two-thirds vote of the membership at a regular meeting.

Section 2. Notification of intent to remove an officer or member must be made known at the regular meeting preceding the meeting that the action is to take place.

Section 3. An officer or member who is removed must be informed in writing of the action taken by the membership.

ARTICLE XII – RESPONSIBILITY FOR INJURY

The Hi-Line & Hobbles Chapter of Back Country Horsemen of Utah shall not be responsible for accidents or injury incurred by any person or persons engaged in any activity of the organization and also recognizes its protection under 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.

ARTICLE XIII – ASSETS

The property of this organization is dedicated to the specific purposes set forth in Article II. No part of the net income or assets of the organization shall ever incur to the benefit of any Director, Officer, or member thereof, or to any other private person. Upon dissolution or termination of the organization any assets remaining after payment of, or provision for the payment of, all debts and liabilities of the organization, shall be given to the Back Country Horsemen of Utah affiliate or distributed in accordance with the Utah Nonprofit Corporation and Co-operative Association Act to a nonprofit, charitable or educational organization having similar aims and objectives or to a governmental entity, political subdivision, or agency to be devoted to similar aims and objectives.

ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting by a majority vote, provided notice of such proposed amendment and a “first reading” be given to the membership at a regular meeting preceding the vote on the amendment.

ARTICLE XV – ACCESS TO BYLAWS

A copy of these Bylaws will be given to all members on an annual basis at the annual meeting and a copy will be posted on the BCHU web page.

By-laws adopted by majority vote of the membership in the monthly meeting held on the 17th of February 2011.

Jeff Nichols

Mike Gagon

Michele Stephens