



SAN RAFAEL CHAPTER BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN

An organization of men and women concerned about sustained equestrian access and proper use on our public lands

President - Rod Player 435-653-2440

Vice President - Wayne Ludington 435-472-8249

Secretary/Treasurer - Priscilla Burton,

June 2011

"Welcome to our Newest Member"
Peggy Hess

From the President's Desk:

It's a frequently heard comment, but I can't believe how fast time goes by. Seems like just yesterday when I was writing the May message. The trail crew will be starting work on June 13th. They will work for 8 ten hour days have six days off and back again for 8 days. Those of you who have ridden in Huntington Canyon this spring please let me know what trail conditions you have found. Last week the higher country (above the Bridges Campground) was still covered in snow. So at least for the first tour the crew will be working on the lower trails. I rode up Mill Fork canyon yesterday and found serious road damage before the trailhead. There is a quite a lot of saw work needed on the trail so I think the lower portion of the trail will be one of the first trails we will have the crew work on. Please attend our meeting on June 9th so we can get all of our summer activities planned.

Thanks to all of you for the work in Saddle Horse Canyon and Salt Wash removing Russian olive. I have had several County officials thank us for this effort.

Carbon County Trails Committee

Wayne Ludington represent the SRBCH on the Carbon County Trail Committee at their first meeting on May 26, 2011. There was a number of groups represented including motorized (motorcycle and ATV), state parks, UDWR, Mountain Bikers and hiking groups. They discussed a number priorities and it was decide to start firming up the trails on Woodhill. The Luke Trail crosses private land owned by at least two different parties. It was decided to try to pursue an right-of-way for the trails. It was also suggested that the right-of-way be wide enough to allow a horse trail to parallel the mountain bike trail.

Boulder Colorado restricts horse use

It has been mentioned several times that the BCHU is dedicated to the maintenance of horse access on public lands. Boulder Colorado is an example of how things can go bad. The mountain foothills west of Boulder have been traditionally used by horses. Mountain bikes and hikers have been increasing and presently make up major users of the trails. The area is presently receiving heavy use by mountain bikers, and hikers. The Boulder City Council has now restricted equestrian use on that land through both outright restrictions and also by not providing sufficient parking for trucks pulling horse trailers.

http://www.rockymountainrider.com/articles/0611_boulder_co_riders_lose_trail_access.htm

Saddle Horse Canyon Russian Olive Tree removal

On May 11, Ken Snook, Rod Player and Wayne Ludington rode into Saddle Horse Canyon to continue the Russian olive tree removal that was started three years before. They located and removed four new trees and two previously treated trees. The new trees were small enough to be removed with clippers. All of the tree stumps were treated with herbicide to prevent re-sprouting. The ride as always was beautiful with a lot of water and the trees just starting to green up.

North Salt Wash Russian olive Removal

May 21, Ken Snook, Dale Wharram and Wayne Ludington removed all of the Russian olive trees they could find between the McCarty Trailhead and the mouth of Saddle Horse Canyon. They cut down and treated 12 trees in seven different locations. Follow up will be needed as some of these trees were very difficult to treat.

The canyon was as beautiful as usual. The vegetation looked great with 8 to 10 foot high coyote willow, sedges, cottonwood trees and grasses.

June Meeting

We are meeting in the Emery County Court House. This will give us a more central location for the Emery County members. For those members in Carbon Co we will meet at the K-Mart Parking lot to car pool at 5:45 PM. Please let Wayne (650-3639) know if you want to car pool so that we can have enough room for everyone.

The meeting will be in a small room on the second floor of the court house starting at 6:30 on June 9. We will be discussing the work project in Huntington Canyon and our work project/ride for June 18.

June Ride

The ride has not been set yet. It could be in Huntington Canyon in preparation for the trail crews. The ride/work project will be set on Thursday.

BCHU meeting

The May 14 meeting will be held in Kamas, Utah. Julie Mack from The Wilderness Society was present to give a presentation to the state chapters. She gave me a document from the Wilderness Society to address the use of chainsaws in wilderness. It just states that horse and pack stock use is traditional and appropriate use of the wilderness. "Additionally, language ensuring adequate access, appropriate trailhead facilities....and responsible management and maintenance of trails for the continuance of these historical and traditional uses would be helpful."

The major subject discussed was the Forest Service Trail Classification

System and our agreement with them to work on this classification system. Basically, we need to sort the list of trails for those designed for pack and saddle stock. We then need to look at the trails not listed for pack and saddle stock. Determine if we feel they should they be listed as designed for pack and saddle stock. Then we will need to work with the Forest Service to change the trail design designation. After we have completed this review we should then monitor for any future changes.

Membership Renewals

If you have not yet sent in your membership, please take the time to fill it out the application form attached to this newsletter and get it to Priscilla Burton. Our Chapter has accomplished much over the last five years and we need to keep it going to ensure that recreational horse/mule users continue to access public land.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 9 - SRBCH meeting, 6:30 in Emery County Court House in Castle Dale on the second floor.

June 18 - Huntington Work Project, We will work on the Horse Canyon trail that we have adopted first. We will expand out to the other trails if time allows.

July 14 - SRBCH meeting, 6:30 in Emery County Court House in Castle Dale on the second floor.

July 16 - Huntington Work Project, Oversee the work that is being done by the trail crew

August 11 - SRBCH meeting, 6:30 in Emery County Court House in Castle Dale on the second floor.

August 20 - Work Project, location to be determined.

SAN RAFAEL BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
P.O. Box 132, Cleveland, Utah 84518
(435) 653-2440

SAN RAFAEL BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
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 _____

Street City State Zip

PHONE NUMBERS Home _____ Work _____ 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 THE SAN RAFAEL BACK COUNTRY HORSEMAN

Individual \$30.00 Family \$35.00 Patron \$100.00 to \$299.00 Benefactor \$300.00+

Mail to P.O. Box 153, Cleveland Utah 84518