



2010 was a VERY busy year for West Desert BCHU!

The 2009 Christmas Party was a hit, with Bonnie's incredible decorations, our traditional spiral cut ham, many side dishes, and lots of festive cheer. Live music was performed by *In Cahoots* and was a mix of Christmas and Western music.



Above: Members and guests enjoy a festive meal. Left: "The Fixins!" Below: The stage decorations.



**Don't Forget to Bring your
2011 Membership -
Enclosed**



Antelope Island Ride January 1, 2010

The threat of snow and cold weather loomed as we made plans to tackle our first ride of the year. Linda and I both hauled out the under-armor and lined jeans. The horses didn't seem to mind at all.

The road was kind of slick and as I rounded the last hill, I could feel my truck sliding a little under the load. Just enough to keep me alert as we made our way to the parking area. As we arrived, we saw Lynn Carlson and Bonnie Sweat standing in the snow waiting to leave. What a pleasant surprise.

We rode the loop trail and the weather was cooperating as good as could be expected for early January. As long as we stayed on the downhill side, it was rather pleasant, even if cold. There were a lot of riders from other chapters along with some families that were enjoying a tradition of their own. About half way through the ride, we crested the hill and looked down upon Bountiful and a few other cities and haze in the valley. It was still a sight to see and it always thrills us to take it in at any time during the year. After resting the horses, we came across some riders who warned us of a loose horse just down the trail a bit. We dropped down off the first bench and there they were; A bunch of riders circling a lone horse with a rider standing off to one side. We moseyed down to check things out and decided to get involved and see if we could help close the Rodeo. Bonnie did her best, but with all the riders chasing this poor guy he was spooked enough to resist and bolt at every opportunity which is just what he did. We spent about 30 minutes until the owners decided to deal with the problem themselves. We rode on ahead looking for buffalo and keeping an eye on the group behind us. In about 2 miles or so, we came across some volunteer trail rangers we know from the Ogden chapter of BCHU and spent a few minutes chatting with them. They rode on up the trail to check on the loose horse and its rider and we headed back to the trucks. Bonnie and Lynn had some hot soup cooking on a new stove Lynn brought with him, while Linda and I put the horses away. We had to pass up on the great smelling soup for other commitments we had with our family, but it was a good day for a ride on the Island.

Gary & Linda

Post Script: I understand from talking with the volunteer trail rangers, the guy and his horse walked the 3 miles back to the trailer at the parking lot. Sounds like the start of a tradition to me.



Above: Gary and Linda Bean, Right: Lynn Carlson and Bonnie Sweat

WDBCH Ride To Stansbury Island

April 17, 2010

By Stew Paulick

On April 17, sixteen members & guests of the West Desert Back Country Horseman had their first excursion to the North end of Stansbury Island. The ride began at the North Stansbury Island Trail Head at 10:30 a.m. The Trail Head is at the end of the road on the west side, 15 miles north of Interstate 80, Exit 84. It is situated on a 16 acre parcel of land donated by US Magnesium to Tooele County who along with US Magnesium are developing a picnic area and trail head. A KIOSK at the trail head contains a very well done write-up about the history of the Great Salt Lake and Lake Bonneville. The land surrounding the trail head on east and on both sides of the road is privately owned and access is not allowed. The horse trail goes northeast from the trail head across a sandy bay. The trail stays below the elevation of the mean meander line of the lake. In common words this means the average elevation between the highest and lowest levels of the lake during recent times. That elevation has been determined to be 4205 ft. above sea level. The lake is currently at 4195 ft. above sea level. The significance of this meander line is that everything below that line is State of Utah property which means we have public access; therefore, we can go across the bay without infringing on the private property.



As luck would be with us, we chose the perfect day to ride. It was short sleeve weather, and also ahead of the big hatch of gnats; which can be unbearable to horses and people a little later in the spring. We got off to a good start and after riding about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile across the bay we left state land and entered BLM land where we then turned east for a distance, then southeast, skirting the private areas and then rode uphill to a pass. The upper elevations of the island are all on public lands. The pass provided a beautiful panorama of the south arm of the lake, Antelope Island to the east, the Wasatch Front farther east, the Oquirrh's on the west and the Lake Point area to the south. We followed an old road south and east down to the upper level of the lake where, on a little rise, some rocks provided a convenient to stop and eat lunch. Tony Peshell finally encountered a gnat near the beach while exercising his horse.



After lunch we went south to the mouth of Pass Canyon. The road wound up the canyon, ending in a number of steep switchbacks near the pass. From the pass we could see west toward the north side of the Stansbury range, Lakeside area, and the dyke across the west section of the lake. Tony Peshell recounted his experience of being on the dyke in 1986 trying to repair it with earth moving equipment when the dyke failed and they had to scramble for their lives. A large Caterpillar sank until the only part showing was the smoke stack. We then descended west down from the pass crossing various levels of the lake on our way to the road and trail head. We had previously secured permission from the land owner to cross his land. Elevations started at 4235 ft and reached 5175 ft. at the top of the highest point. Overall length of ride was a little over 9 miles and took about 4.5 hours. The vistas were spectacular and we all got a lot of real nice photos to take home with us.



WD-BCHU ANNIVERSARY RIDE

On July 10, 2010, twelve members and guests met at campgrounds around 8:30 for our annual Settlement Canyon anniversary ride. We had a diverse group of people including a novice rider, 84 year old original and still very active member of our group, friends from Ogden, and Salt Lake, and of course the stalwarts of our group, those who make almost all of the rides and functions.

We strung out and headed up the canyon in a leisurely fashion. The horses seemed ready and somewhat excited about the trip. A few jockeyed for pole position and we settled into a nice easy cadence climbing up the north side of draw. We were gone about 30 minutes when we had our token tack mishap and we stopped to repair it. It gave the horses a chance to rest and get their minds straight and only took a few minutes to fix thanks to a spare leather boot lace. Moving on took us up the hillside wandering along a well used animal trail that gave us some spectacular views of the canyon both above and behind. Tony Peschell provided narration of the terrain including the locations of some potentially interesting future locations to visit. I made mental note of a couple myself. After a couple hours, we moved off the hillside and into the area known as Bear Trap, which is a saddle at the head of the canyon. It's a nice place to stop, rest the horses, and grab some lunch. We met up with our Ogden friends who had gotten a few minutes late start and after a round of introductions; we picked a spot on the ground and settled in to eat our trail bars, kipper snacks and crackers.

From here, some our members had other commitments and headed back down the trail returning to their trailers early. We were sorry to see them go, but after much wailing, gnashing, and begging, the rest of us sucked it up and moved on.

Normally, we head down the old pipeline road and make a loop back to the campground via another trail. It's a long steep rocky road and hard on hooves. After some discussion, we opted to avoid that trail and head back by another route along the ridgeline. I'm glad we did because the views of the valleys were absolutely fantastic. We could see clear across to the Stansbury range with Deseret Peak standing tall, Stansbury Island to the North, and the Great Salt Lake stretching both East and West. We had a clear command of all the valleys lining Settlement and with encouragement from Lynn Carson and Tony decided to add one trail in particular to our "want to explore list".

We split off into two groups as we neared the end of the ridge. Some of us dropped off to the right and came back through Left Hand Fork, while others dropped over into the main canyon of Settlement. Either way led everyone to the campground.

My way was a new route for me and I enjoyed it very much. I vowed to bring my saddle partner back. All in all, it was a good ride with few incidents, easy on the horses, and the scenery and friendships were good for our souls. There is nothing like exploring a new area and being able to share it with friends. Especially from horseback.

WD BCHU ANNIVERSARY DINER

Every year, come July, we hold our anniversary ride and picnic. We've been going to Settlement Canyon for a while since it's conveniently close to Tooele, has good access for horseback riding and good scenery. We have a favorite spot that puts us in shade, close to a stream, and offers plenty of parking. It has all the makings of a perfect spot and we try to take advantage of it. This year was no different.



After a good day riding in the canyon, (see previous article) we met at 5 pm for the setup and social. We had a low turnout this year due to other commitments for such things as weddings, receptions, graduations, and family reunions. Those who could show up, came with chairs, good humor, and appetites that only a good picnic can produce.

Normally each year we do burgers and dogs, but we decided to add chicken to the menu. Bonnie & Jeff Greenwell showed up with Dutch ovens in hand and proceeded to make some famous potatoes. (If they're not famous now, they will be after everyone brags about them). Jeff produced and gave lessons for an excellent cobbler desert too. Everyone voted Jeff to be the club chef. Not sure he agreed, but it's a worthy try. I manned the grill and cooked the meat. Others brought excellent side dishes. Linda brought baked beans, Judy provided and excellent red and black raspberry salad. (I had at least two portions myself). Lori brought a pasta dish, there were chips, salsa, potato salad, coleslaw from Becky, and lots of other things. No one should go hungry from this meal.



WD-BCHU Hosts BCHU State Meeting, Dinner, and Trail Rides September 10-11-12

WD – BCHU led the State BCHU members up White Pine on Friday, hosted them for dinner Friday night, rode Settlement Canyon on Saturday, and rode along the benches on Sunday. The BCHU members were amazed at the variety and availability of outstanding trails in Tooele County.

Above and left: State BCHU members ride the Left Hand fork of Settlement Canyon. Below Left, Lori Becks and Tony Pershell help Jeff Greenwell cook. Below, Jeff takes on Tom the Turkey in a dance contest.



WDBCHU Ride up Sunshine Canyon – November 6, 2010

Below: Bonnie Sweat on her mule. Right top: George and Tony pondering the day. Below Right: Gary explores a small cave.





**West Desert Back
Country Horsemen
of Utah
cordially invites you
to our**

**ANNUAL
HOLIDAY
PARTY**

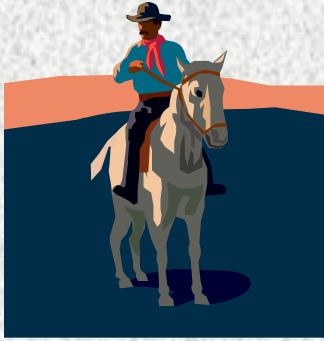
**December 11
6:00 p.m. to Whenever**

**Bit and Spur
Tooele, Utah**

**Please R.S.V.P. by December
4th to
Gary Bean at (801) 541-7866**

2011 WD BCHU Schedule

Month	Date	Description
January	Thursday; 1 st	Antelope Island. Meet at White Sands Parking Lot at 10:30 a.m.
	Saturday, 15 th	TRaILS Extravaganza
	Monday, 24 th	Club Meeting
February	Saturday; 19 th	Stockton Elk visit. Meet at gravel pit about 1 mile south of Stockton at 10:00 a.m.
	Monday, 28 th	Club Meeting
March	Saturday; 12 th	Grassy Mountain – Meet at Old Teddy Bear's at 10:00 a.m.
	Saturday; 26 th	Condie Meadows – Meet at Clover Creek General Store at 9:30 a.m.
	Monday; 28 th	Club Meeting
April	Saturday, 9 th	Stansbury Island North side – Meet at the Railroad Tracks off Exit 89 at 10:00 a.m. Bring a lunch. Stew Paulick Trail Boss.
	Saturday; 23 rd	White Rocks Ride – Meet at Clover Creek General Store at 9:30 a.m.
	Monday; 25 th	Club Meeting
May	Saturday; 7 th	Puddle Valley – Meet at the first off ramp West of the Delle exit at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch and drinks.
	Saturday; 21 st	Lookout Pass – Meet at Penny's at 9:30 a.m.
	Monday; 23 rd	Club Meeting
June	Saturday, 4 th	National Trails Day Ride – Hickman Canyon Service Project. Where to meet?
	Saturday; 18 th	Stansbury Trail – Big Hollow Service Project. Where to meet?
	Monday; 27 th	Club Meeting
July	Monday; 4 th	Children's rides at Tooele City Park – Need lots of help and good tame horses. Meet at 8:00 a.m.
	Fri/Sat; 8/9 th	Overnighter - Anniversary Ride - trail rides, food assigned. Location: Rodeo grounds, Settlement Canyon.
	Monday; 18 th	Club Meeting (moved up one week so as to not interfere with Holiday)
August	Fri/Sat; 12/13 th	Overnighter – Vernon Reservoir.
	Monday; 22 nd	Club Meeting
	Saturday; 27 nd	Ophir Ride/Service Project – Meet at Hunter's Campground. Be there by 9:00 a.m. Lynn Carson Trail Boss.
September	Saturday; 10 th	8 Mile Seep – Meet at 9:00 a.m. at "Old Teddy Bears" in Skull Valley. Bring lunch and drinks. Jay DeLaMare Trail Boss.
	Saturday; 24 th	Pass Canyon Ride/Service Project. Meet at Kimberlee's at 9:00 a.m.
	Monday; 26 th	Club Meeting
October	Saturday; 1 st	Bates Canyon – Meet at the top of Bates Canyon Road at 10:00 a.m.
	Saturday; 22 nd	Settlement Canyon Service Project – Meet at Rodeo Grounds at 10:00 a.m.
	Monday; 24 th	Club Meeting
November	Saturday; 12 th	Mile Marker 10 – Old Cabin Ride – Meet at 10:00 a.m.
	Monday; 28 th	Club Meeting
December	Saturday; 10 th	Christmas Party at Bit & Spur. More information and food assignments to follow.



***Don't Forget our 2010 Christmas
Party!!!***

***December 11, 2010 at Silver Spur
Club House***

6:00 pm

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE!

I Free Ad/Year for each WD- BCHU member

West Desert BCHU
C/O 4492 Skyline Circle
Erda, UT 84074

