



Mountain Ridge

Back Country Horsemen of Utah

NEXT RIDE:

Packing, Aug 7-9,
Bench Creek (p. 6)

NEXT MEETING:

August 18
Monthly meeting, 7
pm, race track bldg,
SL Equestrian Center

THANK YOU!

Steve Johnson
(Packing Clinic)

Paul & Kathy Kern
(Hosting us at Island Park)

Paula Hill & Everyone who helped
(Current Creek Service Project)

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P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E



will be plenty of people who will be will to help you if you need assistance or advice. The date for this trip is August 7-9 and details of where to meet are in the newsletters.

We will hold our regular monthly meeting at the race track office on August 13 as we have it scheduled, But I will have a matter of business to bring up at this meeting about changing the meeting place for our monthly meetings. I have been in contact with the managers of the Cottonwood Creek Retirement Center on the Murray-Holladay Road and they offer their meeting rooms to non-profit organizations on a permanent basis. They have a very comfortable room that will handle about thirty or so people that they are willing to let us use on the second Thursday of each Month. This will mean heat in the winter and cooling in the summer and we won't have to find someone each month to open the building for us. But before I commit to them permanently I would like some feed back from the members of Mountain

Ridge so we can determine if this is a good move. It will save us about \$250 a year in room rental. So come to the August meeting and make your voice heard.

May your trails be clear and you vistas captivating
Ray Smith

J U L Y P A C K I N G C L I N I C

At the packing clinic held at Steve and Dottie Johnson's place, there seven people in attendance including the presenter. A couple of members lingered on until around 10:00 pm. The presentation covered methods of training your lead and pack horse to accept the rope anywhere on his body, the britchen and crouper, noise from the pack saddle as well as other distractions. Considerable time was spent on packing equipment - both horse stuff and personal. This was an evening well spent. We all learned something.

I spent most of July sitting in a lounge chair in my living room icing my new knee, my wife is great at feeding and watering the horses, but I can't seem to get her to trim their hoofs. I hope you have been able to enjoy the mountains around us and help by participating in the work projects we have had to do. Not many members came to our meeting and clinic at Steve Johnson's home on preparing your horses for packing. But I think those who did attend got some good pointers to prepare them. Those who are planning on going on the Bench Creek camp out should have attended or already know what to expect since this is a do it yourself pack trip where you provide all of your own equipment. I am sure there

CURRENT CREEK SERVICE PROJECT



One of the new corrals

Wow!! What a very successful weekend we had up at Current Creek. Fourteen very generous people gave up their weekend to work on this project. Three chapters were represented, Mountain Ridge, High-line and Hobbles and Wasatch Front. Because of every-ones hard work, we were able to accomplish

the goal of building two new corrals. We made minor repairs to the existing corrals and thanks to Bev's observation, we discovered we should make some repairs to one of the mangers. Jo, Rinda and Lynnette (Mountain Ridge), did a fabulous job of grooming the trail behind the new corrals, and beyond!

All was not "hard" labor. We scheduled time for trail marking--Jo went on an all day journey to mark one (blue) while the rest of us, in our little old "farm" truck, took a Mr. Toads Wild ride up an ATV trail to find the "spot" Art (from High-line and Hobbles) said a tree was over the creek where he wanted to make the crossing and it needed cutting. Well, I don't believe we ever found THAT tree, but we did find an easy crossing. After crossing the creek, we proceeded to walk the trail and mark it (orange). Both of these trails can be accessed from the campground.

My plan for next year will be pretty much the same...build two more corrals, find more opportunities to do trail work and perhaps blaze new ones. Even though we had long, hard working days, I had a great time and I am hoping the others feel the same. I am very thankful and appreciative of everyone who came to work this project.

Thanks to all,
Paula



Thank you to Rinda Black for the pictures!

BENCH CREEK RIDE



ISLAND PARK RIDE



SAFETY IN BLACK BEAR COUNTRY

Thousands of black bears live in Utah's forests and mountains, often in the same places we camp, hike and build our houses. This poses a safety concern for both humans and bears. If a bear obtains food from a home or campsite—even once—it may become aggressive in future attempts. This almost guarantees the bear will have to be destroyed. Fortunately, there are steps you can take to protect both you and the bear.

CAMP AND HIKE RESPONSIBLY

Sloppy campers and hikers don't just endanger themselves, but also future visitors. Bears have amazing memories; they will return to a site repeatedly if they ate there at some point in the past. When in bear country, you should:

MAINTAIN A BEAR-SAFE CAMPSITE

- Store food, drinks and scented items securely (in your vehicle, a bear-safe container or a tree—never in your tent)
- Dispose of trash in bear-proof dumpsters, if available
- Wipe down picnic tables
- Burn food off stoves or grills
- Pitch tents away from trails in the backcountry
- Always sleep inside your tent
- Never approach or feed a bear
- Report bear sightings to your campground host

TAKE PRECAUTIONS WHILE HIKING

- Stay alert at dawn and dusk, when bears are more active
- Go with a group, if possible
- Make noise as you travel through dense cover
- Stay away from animal car-

BEAR SAFETY

casses

- Store food, trash and scented items (such as sunscreen) in airtight plastic bags
- Keep kids in the center of the group

PROTECT YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY

If a bear enters your yard, give it an obvious escape route—do not corner it. Black bears can quickly inflict thousands of dollars in property damage. You can reduce or eliminate visits from bears if you:

DISPOSE OF TRASH CAREFULLY

- Store trash in a secure location or bear-safe container
- Put your trash out for pick-up in the morning, not the previous night
- Clean your trash container regularly

USE DETERRENTS

- Put up electric fencing
- Place bear unwelcome mats (wood planks with nails or screws protruding) in front of doors or windows
- Install motion-activated lights or noisemakers
- Get one or more dogs
- Turn on garden hoses or sprinklers
- Spray the bear with bear spray

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

- **Stand your ground.** Never back up, lie down or play dead. Stay calm and give the

bear a chance to leave. Prepare to use your bear spray or another deterrent.

- **Don't run away or climb a tree.** Black bears are excellent climbers and can run up to 35 mph—you cannot out climb or outrun them.

KNOW BEAR BEHAVIOR.

If a bear stands up, grunts, moans or makes other sounds, it's not being aggressive. These are the ways a bear gets a better look or smell and expresses its interest.

IF A BEAR ATTACKS

- **Use bear spray.** Then leave the area. Studies have shown bear spray to be 92 percent successful in deterring bear attacks.
- **Shoot to kill.** If you use a firearm, never fire a warning shot—aim for the center of the bear and keep firing until it is dead. Notify the Division of Wildlife Resources immediately.
- **Always fight back.** And never give up! People have successfully defended themselves with almost anything: rocks, sticks, backpacks, water bottles and even their hands and feet.



MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCH 2009 SCHEDULE



Packing at Bench Creek — Pack in Again August 7-9

Fri-Sunday, August 7-9: Bench Creek Pack Trip. Self Support Pack Trip (bring your own food), info Keith Christiansen 571-6129 keithhelen@msn.com

Meet at the Kamas IGA (bottom of the hill on the left on the main road into Kamas) at 8:30. We will caravan over to the trail head together. The ride in and out is about 4 hours, and we will ride somewhere on Saturday too. Horses need shoes or boots. Please let Keith know if you are planning to come.

Remember we can't tie horses overnight to the trees, so bring a high line or electric fence. Also bring hobbles or similar for grazing. It is best to train your horse to the high line and the hobbles before the pack trip! Bring your own food and cooking equipment, water purifier (water is available for the horses), tent/sleeping bag/etc..

August 7 - 9, 2009 - Leave No Trace Training at Hardware Ranch Paula Hill and Paul Kern have indicated they would like to go for training. Anyone else, contact Ray

Smith. rayscki@yahoo.com, 969-0758.

Thursday, August 13: Monthly meeting, 7 pm, race track bldg, SL Equestrian Center

Aug 15-23 Crystal Lake Bridge in the Uintas (regional project for all chapters). 15 packers + pack animals have taken in 1/3 of the needed corduroy for bridges. The rest needs to be packed in, and the bridges built. Will be scheduled for a week long project with a base camp set up. More details on bchu.com

Thursday, September 10: Monthly meeting, 7 pm, race track bldg, SL Equestrian Center

Saturday, September 12: Monthly ride, Strawberry River Ride, North of Strawberry Reservoir, info Keith Christiansen 571-6129

Friday/Saturday September 18-19 State BCHU Meeting and ride Kamas UT. Info: Fred Leslie, fredleslie101@gmail.com, 553-1873; 484-3253; 450-2905

Saturday, September 26: Service project, Hemangog Trail Work, Corner Canyon, info Bob Baker, 801-572-3996, bob-bucksnot@q.com

Thursday, October 8: Monthly meeting, 7 pm, race track bldg, SL Equestrian Center

Saturday, October 10: Monthly ride, Settlement Canyon, Tooele, info Bruce Kartchner

Saturday, November 7: Monthly ride, Look-out Pass, West Side of the Mountain, info Keith Christiansen 571-6129

Thursday, November 12: Monthly meeting, 7 pm, race track bldg, SL Equestrian Center

Thursday, December 10: Annual Christmas Party/Auction, Sheriff's posse building, South Jordan Equestrian Center. Info, Ray Smith, 969-0758

Sunday Rides: There will also be some ad hoc rides scheduled for Sundays. Watch for more information.

Camp Outs: A lot of times people camp informally the night before and/or after BCHU rides. Contact the ride leader to see if they know of anyone doing this.

Want even more rides?

Remember, join one BCHU unit and you've joined them all. See bchu.com

FULL MOON

Aug. 5, 10:55 p.m. MDT -- Full Sturgeon Moon, when this large fish of the Great Lakes and other major bodies of water like Lake Champlain is most readily caught. A few tribes knew it as the Full Red Moon because the moon rises looking reddish through sultry haze, or the Green Corn Moon or Grain Moon.

THE BITLESS BRIDLE A NEW EXPERIENCE

BY RON CALDWELL
- THE TACKGUY , A.A. CALLISTER

As the Western Tack Buyer for A. A. Callister, I'm always on the lookout for new and interesting equine related products. One of the best sources for new product ideas can come from our customers. Several months ago, I had a customer come into our store specifically looking for what he called "The Bitless Bridle". Our English Tack Buyer says her horse is so much more relaxed and willing to work for her in the Bitless Bridle. She recently rode her horse in the Bountiful July 4th parade with this Bitless Bridle. (www.bitlessbridle.com). The website has tons of information, customer testimonials, photos, etc. After much review, I decided to order one and give it a test. I have wondered for some time how my horse ,Spirit, might do with a Bosal or Hackamore. To my knowledge, he has always used a bitted bridle. The new Bitless Bridle arrived and off to my round pen we went. I have to admit that I was a bit nervous about riding him with this new bridle but we had no problems to worry about. Spirit also immediately began to respond positively to it. His steering was great, he stopped great and backed great. We tried some roll backs and turn arounds and they were good too. The main difference that I noticed was how relaxed he was and no fidgeting or dancing around.

His head position was much lower than normal. After 15 minutes in the round pen, I felt comfortable trying it out in our fenceless arena (that's right, no fence). To my amazement, Spirit and the bitless bridle were great. I felt like I had all the control I've ever had with a bitted bridle. Being a Team Penner myself, we tried lots of fast starts, fast stops and quick turns. I also notice that his lope was a bit slower than normal which was a pleasant surprise. I figure a real good test of this bridle would be to ride out in the open with the new bitless bridle. We have now made several trips to Dimple Dell Canyon where we've spent hours riding the hillsides and creek bed. On one trip, we rode most of the day in the fast running water of the creek. This was a fun experience for both of us. I feel very comfortable now with this bitless bridle. I have started using it on my wife's mare and I'm seeing the same results as I've seen with Spirit. The bitless bridle is much more than a Bosal, Hackamore or Sidepull. I have purchased a few of these bitless bridles for our stores in West

Valley and South Jordan. If you would like to see the specifics of how it works, please visit www.bitlessbridle.com or contact me at A.A. Callister.



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Featured Websites in this Edition:

Back Country Horsemen www.bchu.com
National Extension Service eXtension.org (select
[Horses](#))
Bitless Bridle www.bitlessbridle.com
Bear Safety wildlife.utah.gov/bear/bear_safety.php

Mountain Ridge Photo Sharing Site: email
cfurse@ece.utah.edu for an invitation.
GPS Sharing Site: [http://www.ece.utah.edu/~cfurse/
GPS_info/GPS.htm](http://www.ece.utah.edu/~cfurse/GPS_info/GPS.htm)
USU Equine Extension extension.usu.edu/equine

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
BCHU.Com

**MOUNTAIN RIDGE
BACK COUNTRY
HORSEMEN**

**Mountain Ridge Back Country Horsemen
P.O. Box 81
Riverton, UT 84065**

Join M.R.B.C.H. and preserve our heritage!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

HomePhone _____ Work# _____

Cell # _____ e-mail _____

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 horse/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 Mt. Ridge BCH, individual \$30/year, family \$40/year. New _____ Renewal _____

GET MORE MILEAGE OUT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP ! Pass this on to a friend.

**MRBCH Editor
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