

NEXT RIDE:

NEXT MEETING:
Thursday, December 10: Annual Christmas Party/ Auction, Sheriff's posse building, SJordan Equestrian Center



Please fill out the membership form on back page and bring to the Xmas party. Thank you!

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Mountain Ridge

Back Country Horsemen of Utah

DECEMBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As this year comes to an end soon, I think back of what I was able to do for Back Country Horsemen and specifically the Mountain Ridge Unit. I have realized that mostly I have gained something from filling this job. I have had the opportunity to work on service projects, picnics, educational programs and Expos with you as members and got to know you and how passionate you are about equine issues. In asking for volunteers I have only been turned down a couple of times and most everyone is willing to help in some way. We have had some great rides this year with most of them being led by Steve Johnson, and because of his and others willingness we have learned alot about our favorite pastime and had a lot of fun and new experiences.

I would especially like to thank Cindy Furse who has been so dedicated to the newsletter, and who along with Larry Newton always made sure they were there to hold big Jethro for me.

As Fred mentioned in the news letter we are foremost a service organization and have the ability to use our voice as Back Country Horsemen to make a difference

on the trails we use. We need to be vigilant and watch for situations that could curtail our right to use our horses both around the Salt Lake Valley and in the back country. Our efforts do not go unnoticed and as I have talked to people all around the State, the reputation of Back Country Horsemen is looked at with respect. I have noticed over the years since I have joined that some of the past officers of Mountain Ridge have gone into total retirement. I want to pledge to you that I will remain active in this organization and will be willing to help wherever I am needed and I look forward to seeing you on the trails of Utah. Thanks for your support, May your trails be clear and your vistas captivating,

Ray Smith

Meeting Minutes:
 12 November 2009

Present:
 Ray Smith, Denise Kirby, JoAnn Stoddard, Pat Wilson, Sandy Williams, Stephanie Yeager, Lisa Baker, Bob Baker, Doris Richards, Bev Heffernan

Meeting was called to order by Ray Smith at 1902. Denise Kirby motioned and Lisa Baker seconded that the ;minutes from the meeting on 8 October 2009 be approved. This motion passed unanimously.

First order of business: The Christmas Party! The Christmas Party will be held at the Equestrian Park on Thursday, 10 December 2009. Starting time is 1830. Bob Baker reported that he is planning on having ribs and chicken rather than steaks this year and will start food

preparation at 1300 on that day. The club has reserved the building from 1300 to 2200 hours. Bob has put out a call for help in setting up. Kim Hohmeister has volunteered to do the decorations again this year. Kathy Kern, Stephanie Yeager, Ray Smith have all volunteered to help with the set up. Pat Wilson will be there with the membership sign up forms as this is the time to renew your membership for the year 2010.

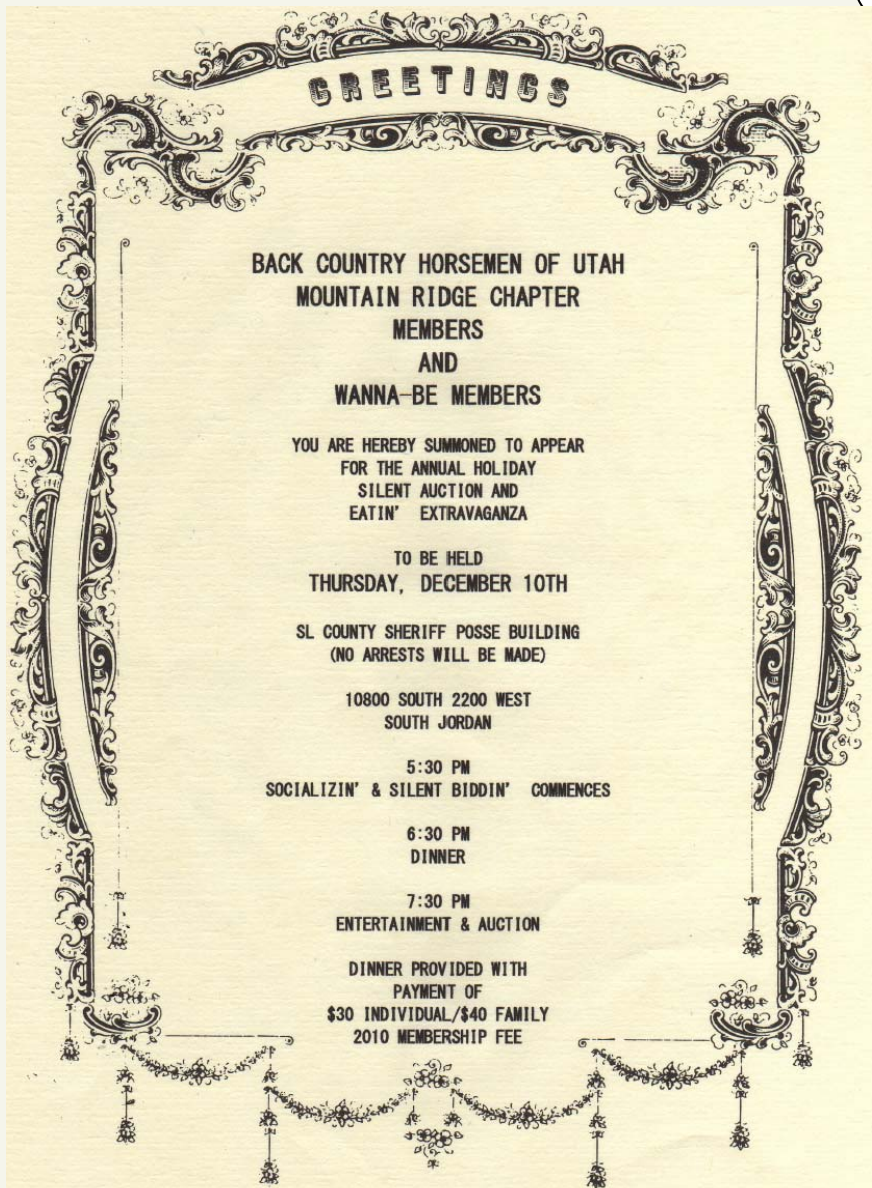
Continuing Items of interest:

- *Fred Leslie has volunteered to be the service coordinator.
- *Draper Trails Committee has no ongoing projects currently but will need help again in the spring.
- *There are 4 cameras in Corner Canyon in sensitive areas (Ghost Falls) to record misuse of these areas.
- *Ray Smith would like to volunteer to work on the Jordan River Parkway to help keep the parkway horse friendly.
- *There continues to be confusion over horse access in Corner Canyon especially needing to acquire a permit from Water Pro. Suggestion was made to ask Darin Sorenson from Water Pro to come to one of our meetings in 2010.
- *The Sunday rides have had good attendance .

New Business:

- *Still in need of a 2nd vice president: one suggestion was made to ask Tom Smith
- *Stephanie Yeager will be doing the state newsletter.
- *Still need an education coordinator
- *Need to get volunteer work hours in to Doris Richards
- *Want to be sure to publish the names of all individuals / organizations that donate to us.

Lisa Baker motioned and JoAnn Stoddard seconded that all business being discussed that the meeting adjourn. This motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2036.



Volunteers needed!

To set up decorations and tables, cook steaks, help with the auction, etc. Contact

Bob & Lisa Baker
572-3996; 631-8058; 631-8058
bobbucksnot@q.com

Donations needed!

The silent auction at the Christmas Party is our biggest (only) fundraiser of the year. Donations of useable horse equipment, gift cards or items from local merchants, household or gift items of any kind (they don't have to be horsey)

are needed. It's a great way to make your home and stable BIGGER! Bring in those extra items you are no longer using that you think someone else might like.

PLEASE: (1) if you are approaching a local merchant for a donation, please contact Bob or Lisa Baker to make sure we don't have everyone asking the same folks for donations. (2) Please clean and spiff up the used items (they have greater appeal this way). (3) Review your Christmas list before you come. This is a great place to find special gift items.

**GOT A FAVORITE RIDE?
LEAD IT!**

Thursday, Jan 14: Monthly meeting 7 pm, [Cottonwood retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road \[4752 South\]](#)

This year we need YOU! If you have a favorite ride, please volunteer to lead it. Rides can be long or short, easy or tough, day or night, nearby or far away.

The ride schedule will be set at the January meeting.

Please be thinking of a good ride, and let Paul Kern or Bob Baker know.

Paul Kern
942.8928
kernpr@gmail.com

Bob Baker
572-3996; 631-8058; 631-8058
bobbucksnot@q.com



Thank you to Diana Van Uitert, who has emailed the BCHU members about two delightful Sunday rides near Deer Creek Reservoir. Oct 18 we rode around the reservoir to Soldier Hollow and back. Oct 25 we rode high above the reservoir (incredible views!). If you want to advertise any ad hoc ride like this, just email cfurse@ece.utah.edu

FULL MOON RIDES



Dec. 2, 12:30 a.m. MST -- Full Cold Moon. December is usually considered the month that the winter cold begins to fasten its grip.

Dec. 31, 12:13 p.m (noon). MST -- Full Long Night Moon. Nights are at their longest and darkest. The term Long Night Moon is a doubly appropriate name because the midwinter night is indeed long and the moon is above the horizon a long time. The midwinter full moon takes a high trajectory across the sky because it is opposite to the low Sun. This is the second time the moon turns full in a calendar month, so it is also popularly known as a **"Blue Moon."** Full moons occur on average each 29.53 days (the length of the synodic month), or 12.3683 times per year; so months containing two full moons occur on average every 2.72 years, or every 2 years plus 8 or 9 months. There will be a **partial lunar eclipse** that will be visible from Europe, Africa and Asia with this full moon. At its maximum 7.6-percent of the moon's diameter will become immersed in the Earth's dark umbral shadow.

**WHO'S THAT BUCKAROO?
(AND HER TRUSTY PONY)**



WHO'S THAT BUCKAROO? SANDY WILLIAMS

We we first moved to Dubois, WY, we lived in a log house with no running water; a small detail my father neglected to mention to my mother who was pregnant with my brother at the time. Believe me — there's nothing like running out of the house in below zero weathr in the winter and enduring spiders, flies, and odors in the summer. We did, however, acquire indoor plumbing before most of the other town residents.

The school we attended was in a log building. First, second, and third grade were in one room on the main floor. Fourth, fifth, and sixth were in a room across the hall. Junior high and high school were in two rooms upstairs. Downstairs was a cafeteria, workshop, and coal bin. Also attached to the school was a gym. Most social activities were held at the Rustic Pine Tavern in the dance hall. Movies were shown once a week for which they brought in folding chairs. (Events are still conducted there, as was our most recent class reunion.)

There were only two churches in town: an Episcopalian church and a Catholic church. My parents didn't care which one we attended as long as we went. I chose the Episcopalian Church because I could get it over with in the morning and have my afternoons free. The Catholics had to wait until a priest came from another community in the afternoon. Actually it was a good choice, because the

church had many activities to which the whole town was invited.

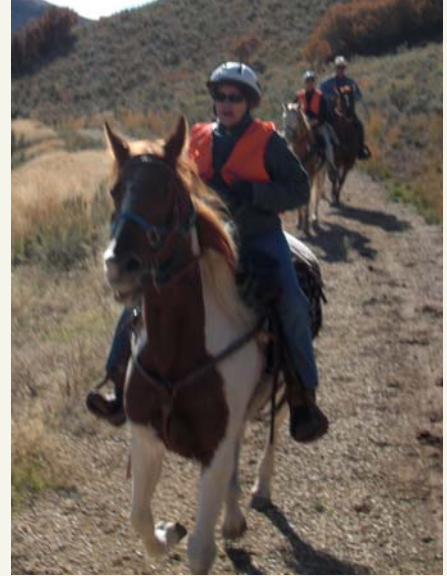
My father was the only person in town who had an airplane, so when we'd see him circling to land, my friends and I would often run up to the airport (one graded runway) in time for him to take us for a ride. He loved doing barrel rolls in his Air Coupe to scare us. He now admits he must have been crazy. Sometimes he would have to wait for an elk or moose to leave the runway before he could land. My uncle in Worland was a veterinarian, so dad routinely flew our dogs and cats there to be neutered. Unfortunately, dogs, cats, and horses that belonged to the ranchers weren't so lucky. They were cut sans painkillers.

I didn't have my own horse in Dubois, but my best friend lived on a ranch. We always rode the



horses her parents didn't want their guests to ride. My favorite was Spot, a 20-year-old pinto. He wanted to run all the time and liked to rear up a lot. I got used to pulling myself up by his mane while he was taking off at top speed and loved every minute of it. I didn't realize people took lessons to ride or lounged their

horses until I moved to Salt Lake and got back into riding a few years ago.



Sandy and Apache. That's Apache on the other page, as a yearling.

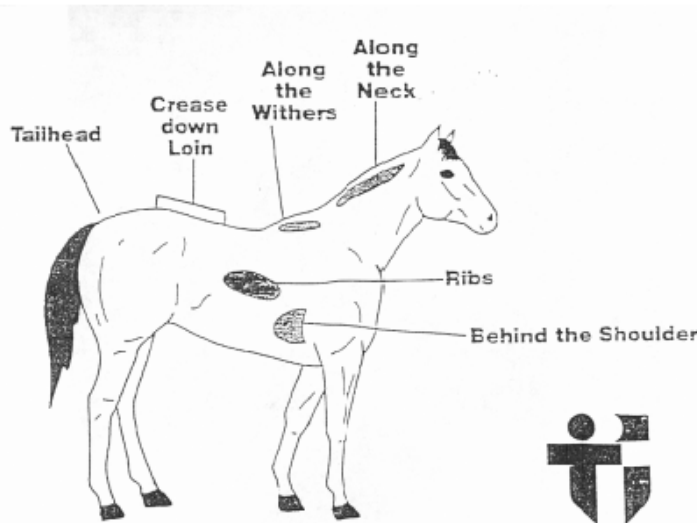
I finally got my own horse when we moved to Lander, WY. A friend of my father's had rounded up a bunch of horses he intended to sell at auction. Dad talked him into letting me take my pick. I chose a yearling filly. I broke her myself which pretty much consisted of getting thrown off until she was tired of doing so. If someone had asked me to choose between my horse and my parents, I probably would have chosen the horse. I brought her to Salt Lake when we moved here in 1960; it's still a painful subject as to how I lost her.

As everyone knows, I now have Bravada and Apache, both of which behave pretty much like the horses I rode in WY. I'm just thankful that Bravada recovered from our accident and Chester, the unplanned foal (Apache's baby) is happily residing with my farrier.

BODY CONDITION SCORING: A MANAGEMENT TOOL FOR EVALUATING ALL HORSES

BY PATRICIA EVANS, USU EQUINE SPECIALIST

Body condition is very important in managing horses, from broodmares to geldings to stallions. Body condition scoring is based on body fat indicators that help to estimate stored body energy. The body condition scoring system evaluates horses on the amount of fat deposited in specific areas of the body. Body fat is determined by visual appraisal and palpation of the six areas shown below.



Under normal circumstances, all six evaluation areas are given equal emphasis. This system evaluates body condition, not quality or conformation. However, because of unique conformation problems including prominent withers, flat loins, weak top lines, or injuries, one or more criteria may be eliminated from visual appraisal. In such instances, additional emphasis should be placed on palpation and visual evaluation of the remaining sites. For example, with a broodmare that is heavy in foal, the weight of the foal will pull the skin tighter over the top line and ribcage, so consequently these two areas

may be eliminated in the evaluation if they conflict with the remaining areas.

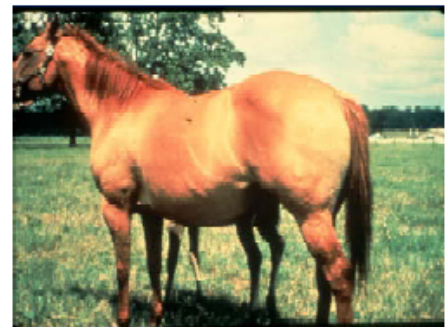
Texas A&M's Henneke nine-point scoring system ranges from 1 (poor) to 9 (extremely fat) (Table 1, last page). All conditions must be met for a horse to fit a particular score but half scores can be used if one or more of the sites do not meet the criteria for that score.



Body Condition Score 1



Body Condition Score 5



Body Condition Score 8 to 8.5

Editor's note: See the next page for body scoring metrics. For the complete information sheet on body condition scoring and other great information see the USU Equine Extension website: extension.usu.edu. Also, watch for next year's USU workshops on Getting the Most Out of Your Horse Feeding Dollar or Equine First Aid. In the first aid course, we were able to do a hands-on weight and body condition scoring experience with several different horses. Anyone who owns a horse should take these clinics. They are AWESOME! I learned SO much

BODY CONDITION SCORING (CONTINUED)

Table 1 Henneke Body Condition Scoring System

Condition	Neck	Withers	Loin	Tailhead	Ribs	Shoulder
1 POOR	Bone structure noticeable	Bone structure easily noticeable	Spinous processes project prominently	Tail head, pinbones, and hook bones project prominently	Ribs project prominently	Bone structure easily noticeable
	Animal extremely emaciated; no fatty tissue can be felt					
2 VERY THIN	Faintly discernable animal emaciated	Faintly discernable	Slight fat covering over base of spinous processes; transverse processes of lumbar vertebrae feel rounded; spinous processes are prominent	Tail head prominent	Ribs prominent	Faintly discernable
3 THIN	Neck accentuated	Withers accentuated	Fat buildup halfway on spinous processes but easily discernable; transverse processes cannot be felt	Tail head prominent but individual vertebrae cannot be visually identified; hook bones appear rounded, but are still easily discernable; pin bones not distinguishable	Slight fat cover over ribs; ribs easily discernable	Shoulder accentuated
4 MODERATELY THIN	Neck not obviously thin	Withers not obviously thin	Negative crease along back	Prominence depends on conformation; fat can be felt; hook bones not discernable	Faint outline discernable	Shoulder not obviously thin
5 MODERATE	Neck blends smoothly into body	Withers rounded over spinous processes	Back level	Fat around tailhead beginning to feel spongy	Ribs cannot be visually distinguished, but can be easily felt	Shoulder blends smoothly into body
6 MODERATELY FLESHY	Fat beginning to be deposited	Fat beginning to be deposited	May have slight positive crease down back	Fat around tailhead feels soft	Fat over ribs feels spongy	Fat beginning to be deposited; point of shoulder not discernable
7 FLESHY	Fat deposited along neck	Fat deposited along withers	May have positive crease down back	Fat around tailhead is soft	Individual ribs can be felt, but noticeable filling between ribs with fat	Fat deposited behind shoulder
8 FAT	Noticeable thickening of neck	Area along wither filled with fat	Positive crease down back	Tailhead fat very soft	Difficult to feel ribs	Area behind shoulder filled in flush with body
	Fat deposited along inner buttocks					
9 EXTREMELY FAT	Bulging fat	Bulging fat	Obvious positive crease down back	Bulging fat around tailhead	Patchy fat appearing over ribs	Bulging fat
	Fat along inner buttocks may rub together, flank filled in flush					

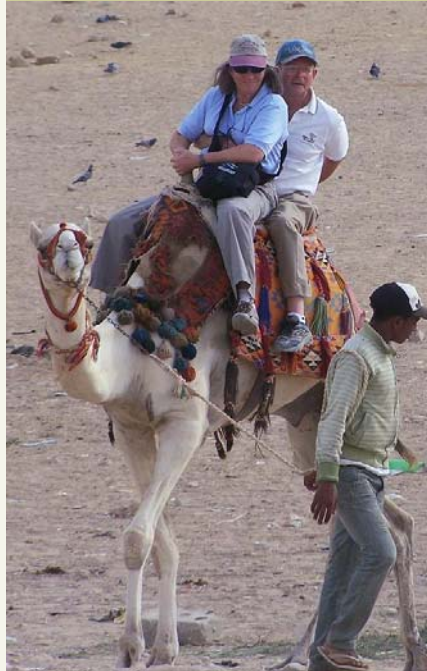
BCHU TRAILS EXPO JAN 16

BCHU cordially invites you and your friends to attend a FREE BCHU sponsored Trail Riding and Informative Lesson Sessions (TRaILS). Information Exchange and Education Symposium to be held on 16 January 2010 at the Davis County Legacy Center from 9:00am - 4:00pm.

The purpose of this event is to provide information to the horse and mule owners of Utah concerning trail riding opportunities and overnight stabling throughout the state as well as educational training in the proper use of horses, and mules on Utah's trails.

In addition, each of the 12 BCHU Chapters will have a booth presenting information regarding 2010 planned activities, favorite trails in the chapter's area and overnight stabling/camping locations. State and County Tourism, Trails and Recreation organizations have also been offered the opportunity to set up tables to pass out information. Finally, Equine oriented clubs and organizations have been invited to set up information booths. For more information, see their webpage at www.bchu.com or call Craig Allen at 801-388-1175

INTERNATIONAL ALTERNATIVES TO HORSEBACK RIDING



The Heffernans Enjoy a Camel-Back Experience in Egypt.



Consider an elephant for its ground-covering stride.



The numerous Indian cart horses pulled high-wheeled carts that carried hay in a compartment underneath. They had very long, thin ears with points much like Abyssinian cats. Most of them wore bells on their ankles. Many of the horses were painted bright colors.



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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.

Get Red Carpet Service: Bring this form filled out & a check with you to the Christmas Party to save time at the door.