

Next Meeting: Thursday,
January 8
Monthly meeting, 7 pm,
race track bldg, SL Eq



Mountain Ridge

Back Country Horsemen of Utah

P R E S I D E N T S M E S S A G E

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

.Don't miss the BCHU trails Extravaganza Jan 17! See page 7 for more details.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED:

Mountain Ridge BCHU needs a secretary. One finger typing skills OK!

DON'T

FORGET:

Check out the websites listed on page 4. Check out last year's photos, too!

Winter is a great time for trailer repairs, tack repairs, and those little training things – like hobbles and high lines.

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Ray Smith, our fearless leader, on Jethro near Grand Staircase Monument.

As I considered the job as president of the Mountain Ridge Chapter of Back Country Horsemen I came to the realization of how little I know of the many areas that Back Country Horsemen are committed to. If we are to do our job properly and promote the principles of BCH we will need to have people who are willing to take a

small part of the job ahead and be willing to run with it. I have been very impressed with the caliber of people who have aligned themselves with Back Country Horsemen, and step up to accept assignments when they feel that they have something to contribute.

I would like to thank Beverly for her service in 2008 as presi-

dent of our chapter and for all of her hard work to stay informed and ahead of the needs of our group. She is a dedicated horsewoman who I am sure will stay involved with our chapter and help promote the responsible use of our lands and trails. We have a lot of opportunities to serve Back Country Horsemen in the near future

with trails, the extravaganza coming up in January, at which we will be preparing a booth from the Mountain Ridge Chapter and will need to have people help with the booth. We also have on Thursday the 8th of January at our regular meeting the opportunity to choose the times, places, trail bosses, and rules which will govern our group rides this year. We will discuss a couple of situations which came up at the rides this past year and see if we can resolve some of the issues to the satisfaction of most everyone. I am looking forward to a great year of rides and service with a lot of fun mixed in. We will continue to support Leave No Trace programs which will make each of us more responsible outdoorsmen and maybe spread the word to other groups how important it is to protect our back country. If each of us accept a small assignment with our state or local chapter we can accomplish great things this year and have a lot of fun doing it. Hopefully we can each make a commitment to help wherever we can see a need.

Ray Smith

MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCH 2009 SCHEDULE

Thursday, Jan 8 (2nd Thur of each month): Monthly meeting, 7 pm, race track bldg, SL Eq Park
Come help decide on the rides for the year. Have a ride you want to try? A ride you are willing to lead?
Contact our ride coordinators:
Steve Johnson 964-5843
Keith Christensen
571-6129

More coming soon.... Watch for next month's newsletter.

Remember, join one BCHU unit and you've joined them all. Check out other great activities and rides at bchu.com.



THANK YOU!

To Everyone Who Helped Out
This Year!

Congratulations to Fred Leslie, Volunteer of the Year (most hours spent in the service of BCHU).

Thank you to Paul and Kathryn Kern for organizing and cooking a delicious Christmas Party dinner, and to the many folks who helped with decorations, grilling, cowboy poetry, donations of auction items and bidding on them too. Thank you to our ride coordinators, Keith Christensen and Steve Johnson for many great hours on the trail, and to the many others who led rides, organized service projects, and helped make the year a great success.

EXAMPLE LETTER TO SENATORS

Dear Senator:

Please work to incorporate \$300 million in funding for local trail projects through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) in the economic-stimulus package now being readied for action in early 2009. This program is administered by the Federal Highway Administration but is unusual in its design and benefits.

Additional funding for the RTP program represents an extraordinary opportunity. The funding distribution process is in place and proven, having successfully completed in excess of 10,000 projects across the nation over the past decade. The distribution process involves state DOTs and natural resource agencies as well as in-place citizen advisory committees, and a network of organizations that will leverage available funding with cash and in-kind support. Quality, eligible projects exist now, and the backlog of these projects exceeds available, traditional funding under SAFETEA-LU by a ratio of at least 3:1. Experience shows that selected projects can be underway very quickly and that most are completed within a year. This funding would attack unemployment swiftly, and rely upon small businesses across the nation. In part, this is because the projects are typically under \$50,000 – even though the economic impact of these projects is often great because they improve access to public lands and waters and support both local tourism and recreation businesses, as well as healthy lifestyles. In addition, most of these projects are already included in planning that meets NEPA and other requirements. Examples of the projects which will be funded through this action are found at www.funoutdoors.info.

We believe that your actions to boost RTP-funded projects will achieve both immediate economic stimulation and strategic investments that will help transform American communities and lifestyles for long-term success, including energy efficiency and improved health. For additional information, we invite you to contact one of the Co-Chairs of the Coalition for Recreational Trails: Marianne Fowler (marianne@railstotrails.org) or Derrick Crandall (dcrandall@funoutdoors.com).

**NOTES FROM
USU:**

January 21, Kamas Utah. **Equine Welfare Forum.** AT this FREE evening event Dr. Rood will discuss the vaccinations recommended by AAEP and why vaccinations are important, Pat Evans will present the Unwanted horse information and the crisis being felt across the country.

February 27 -28 **Judges' Short Course.** Ogden Utah. This event will help new judges and experienced judges sharpen their judging skills. This in depth course will cover many classes, 4-H and Open shows, scoring systems and use of score sheets.

March 27 -28 **USU Horse Show Judges' Certification Program.** This two day program gives the most up to date information on judging a variety of classes and breeds.

VERY good horse fact sheets online:

On saddle fitting, biting, equine behavior, hoof care, equine nutrition, and more. Go to the website below, click publications then equine. (Cindy Furse just used these to check the fit of the saddle she bought at the BCHU auction and says they are REALLY useful.)

For More Info:

<http://extension.usu.edu/equine/>

Or contact Dr. Pat Evans
Extension Equine Specialist
Utah State University
4815 Old Main Hill
Logan, Utah 84322-4815
435 797 2142
pat.evans@usu.edu

**URGENT: WRITE A LETTER
TODAY**

Dear Equestrian Partners and friends:

The Recreational Trails Program is a very important program that provides funding for outdoor recreational opportunities, including horseback riding and driving. Money and program are currently operated by the Federal Highway Administration and state Transportation departments. See <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/>

This program is in jeopardy, as the Transportation Secretary's current reform plan does not support recreational trails. If you care about the trails and greenways that you ride, hike or bike, you should be interested in this issue. RTP funds are available to local, state and federal; land managers for projects that might not otherwise be funded. When the debate begins on Capital Hill in 2009, let your representatives and congressional candidates know that you support recreational trails. And be sure to take the time to learn more.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this important matter.

Best regards,

Cynthia Higgs
Equestrian Partners Coordinator
Equestrian Land Conservation
Resource
4037 Iron Works Parkway, Suite
120
Lexington KY 40511
(859) 455-8383 -Ph
(859) 455-8381 -Fx
chiggs@elcr.org

P.S. An example letter is included on the previous page.

**Contacting Your
Congressional Delegates:**

Representative Jim Matheson
410 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515
Phone (202) 225-3011
Fax (202) 225-5638

Senator Robert F. Bennett
431 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE
BUILDING WASHINGTON DC 20510
Senator Orrin Hatch
104 HART SENATE OFFICE
BUILDING WASHINGTON DC
20510

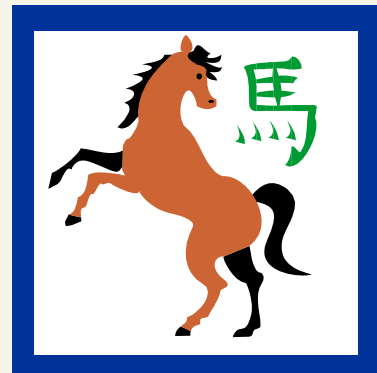
Online:

Just google "congressman" or "senator". There is an online email form for each.

**UTAH HORSE
COUNCIL
EXPO:**

March 13 – 15, South Jordan Utah Horse Council Horse Expo. This event is a great educational program. More information for this event can be found at the Utah Horse Council's website.

www.utahhorsecouncil.com/expo2.htm



BCHU VOLUNTEERS

It is exciting to know that our chapter accumulated well over 1000 volunteer hours in 2008! How did we do it??? Step-by-Step, hour-by-hour, event-by-event. Make your New Year's Resolution to track your 2009 hours and send them to:

Doris Richards
10508 Weeping Willow Dr
Sandy, Utah 84070
(H) 572-1253
(W) 816-1111
(c) 694-4273
OhioanInUtah@gmail.com

Feel free to send the reports quarterly, after each project, or whenever ... get them off your desk and onto mine!

Online Forms & Instructions

www.backcountryhorse.com/Volunteer_Hours_Form.html

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

May 1-3: Jordanelle Project (regional project for all chapters). Terry Morrison reported that Mike Johnson the ranger over the

Jordanelle was very horse friendly. Is in the process of making two parallel trails for horse and walkers from the Cross Creek Trailhead and wants BCH involved with them in the planning and developing. Has plans to cut in 4 new trails with cabins along the trail for users. Need BCH help with weed spraying and control as well. More details to come on bchu.com

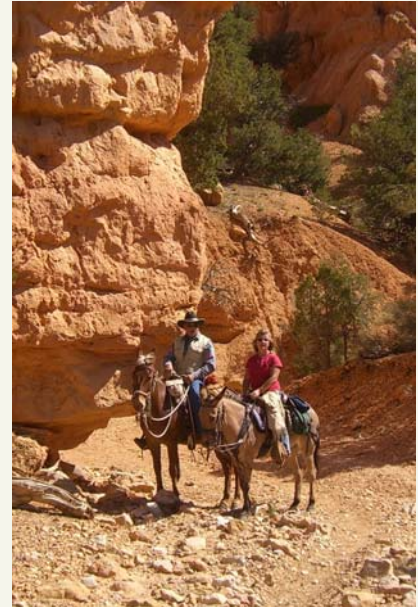
July 10-12 Strawberry area Current Creek Project (regional project for all chapters) Paula Hill reported that the last project was successful with funding available. Several mangers were repaired and 2 corrals were build, 6 more need to be. Donations of materials and work effort are needed. More details to come on bchu.com.

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 to follow on bchu.com

BCHU PHOTOS

Check out the Mountain Ridge BCHU Ride photos at BCHU.com

Also, if you would like to view or share BCHU ride photos online via Snapfish, email Cindy Furse (cfurse@ece.utah.edu).



Steve and Dottie Johnson on their trusty mules in Losee Canyon.

2009 Officers:

President :
Ray Smith
969-0758

rayscki@yahoo.com

State Rep: Paula Hill
766.8393
colostatemama@yahoo.com

Ride Coordinators:
Steve Johnson 964-5843
Keith Christensen
571-6129

1st Vice Pres:
Paul Kern
942.8928

kernpr@gmail.com

Service Coordinator:
Doris Richards 572-1253
OhioanInUtah@gmail.com

Historian:
Rinda Black 278-2112

2nd Vice Pres.:
Bob Baker 572-3996; 631-8058;
631-8058

bobbucksnot@g.com

Education:
Paul Hillier 571-6425
George & Christa Muller 619-8632

Newsletter Editor:
Cindy Furse
581-9225
cfurse@ece.utah.edu

Secretary:
Help needed! To Volunteer for this position, call Ray Smith.

Treasurer
Larry Newton 553-7702
Bignewt1@comcast.net

Past President:
Beverly Hefernan
572-3304
b.heffernan@att.net

Featured Websites in this Edition:

Back Country Horsemen www.bchu.com
BCHU Volunteer Forms
www.backcountryhorse.com/Volunteer_Hours_Form.html

Mountain Ridge Photo Sharing Site: email cfurse@ece.utah.edu for an invitation.

Utah Horse Council www.utahhorsecouncil.com
USU Equine Extension extension.usu.edu/equine/

Explanation of Sections on BCHA Volunteer Report

Report Type – Individual Report, Group Report, Project Summary or Chapter Summary.

Project Date – dates or date of this reported service.

Reporting Name - Who is this report for – individual's name or chapter/unit name.

Chapter Leader – trail /project boss.

Agency and District – see codes below

Agency Contact Person – representative working with your chapter.

Project Name – actual project name, educational clinic, seminar, public meeting, etc.

Project Location – where is it?

Description of Work – trail project, is it brushing, trail recon, water bar, packing, garbage packing, trailhead project, how many trail miles, etc. Is this an educational clinic or class for members, public, 4-H, agency, etc.? Is this a public meeting, what about?

Volunteer Name(s), Agency or Chapter – If group report or project summary, list the names of the volunteers. If a summary, the chapter/unit name or the agencies. If individual, list agency project for each entry.

Activity Date – The dates (start and stop) for this entry.

Basic Labor – Trail maintenance brush clearing, work not requiring skilled labor \$15.00/hr.

Skilled Labor – Hours of activities requiring skilled labor such as packing, carpentry, bridge construction, use of power equipment saws, chain saws, etc. \$25.00/hr.

Trail Recon Work – Not requiring skilled labor. \$15.00/hr.

LNT /Education – Actual hours spent in preparation and conducting educational clinics, seminars, classes, and LNT Training. (This entry assists the agencies in meeting their requirements for educational activities.) \$15.00/hr.

Public Meetings – Actual hours spent in attending or presenting at public meetings relating to BCH activities or issues. \$15.00/hr.

Administrative Work – Includes the scheduling, coordinating and planning work rides within the chapter as well as coordinating rides with agencies and/or agency representative. The value is calculated as follows: 3% of the total hours at \$15.00/hr

Travel Time – Actual hours going from home to projects, work rides, educational or public meetings and back. \$15.00/hr.

Personal Vehicle Mileage – Actual personal vehicle miles traveled from home to projects, rides and back.

Use this if not hauling stock, otherwise use next column. \$.90/mile

Stock Hauling Mileage – Actual vehicle miles traveled with trailer and stock from home to projects, rides and back. \$1.10/mile.

NOTE: Often several people will travel together using one trailer for several animals. In this case, one person (the driver) is credited with stock hauling mileage and the passengers are credited with personal vehicle mileage.

Power Equipment Hours – Total hours for power equipment used on projects, ie, chain saws, power pruners, etc. Use local rate.

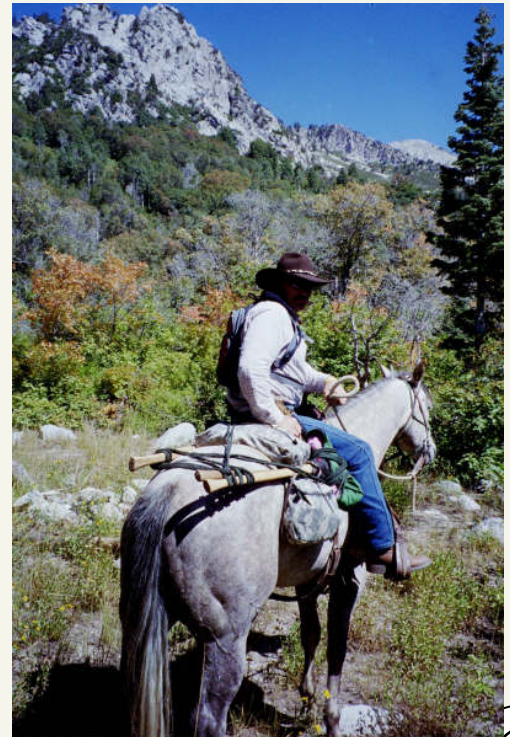
Heavy Equipment Hours – For use of heavy equipment used on projects, ie, backhoe, tractor, post drivers, etc. Use local rate.

In calculating the rate of power equipment or heavy equipment an additional \$3.00/hour should be added to the rate calculation. If you do not know the local rate, we will fill in using our standard rate.

Donations, Dollars or Materials Value – Donations of money, material supplies (nails, gravel, etc.) from chapter coffers, personal accounts or business accounts.

Quantity Stock (Pack and Saddle) – Number of animals used to complete a project.

Number of Stock Days – Even if an animal is only use for part of a day, the time spent in travel and use should equal one day per animal. If 2 animals are used for one day that equals 2 stock days. If 2 animals are used for 2 days that equals 4 stock days. Valued at \$100.00/day



Bob Baker demonstrates the official BCHU Pulaski tie-down method on the way to build trail in the Hemangog.

Back Country Horseman of Utah Presents
The Second Annual

TRAILS Extravaganza

Trail Riding and Instructional Lesson Sessions

Saturday, January 17, 2009, 9am to 4pm

Davis County Legacy Center, 151 South 1100 West, Farmington, UT 84025

Organizer: Craig Allen, 801-388-1175 or email: allenceco@msn.com

This is a **FREE**, information only event to all those who trail ride in beautiful Utah! In attendance will be all 12 BCHU Chapters, Travel Councils from across the state, with trail info from several counties, Trail Organizations and numerous Breed and Riding Clubs, all gathered in one place so you can learn where, when, and how to ride in the backcountry. Throughout the day we will have round-pen events and other informative seminars for the trail rider of all levels of experience. Free Drawings and Prizes throughout the day!

Main Stage:

9:00 – 9:15	Welcome & Mission of BCHU, Craig Allen,
9:15 – 10:15	Trailer Safety, Utah Highway Patrol
10:15 – 11:00	Brand Registrations and Travel Requirements, Troy Higgs and Erin Clelland, Utah Brand Inspectors
11:00 – 12:30	Saddle Fitting and Bitting, Dr. Pat Evans, USU
12:30 – 2:00	The "Leave No Trace" Horse Camp & Pack Clinic, BCHU
2:00 – 3:00	New AAEP Equine Vaccine Recommendations, Dr. Kerry Rood, USU Extension Veterinarian
3:00 – 4:00	The "Unwanted" Horse Epidemic, Dr Pat Evans, USU

The Barrel Corral Stage:

9:00 & 1:00	Essential Knots You Should Know, BCHU
10:00 & 2:00	Trail Courtesy and Etiquette, BCHU
11:00 & 3:00	Leave No Trace Principles, BCHU

This is going to be a fun event for the entire family! There will be lots of information on trail riding opportunities and overnight stabling. So please join us and support this event by bringing members of your horse clubs, horse organizations, anyone you know who is thinking about starting to ride or getting back into riding, and your ten best friends!!

For info on a booth or joining BCHU contact: Craig Allen at 801-388-1175 or visit our website at:

www.bchu.com

See Ya' There!!!

**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 _____

**MRBCH Editor
9400 Emigration Canyon
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108**