

NEXT RIDES:

October 10: Settlement Canyon

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, October 8: Monthly meeting, 7 pm, Cottonwood retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road [4752 South]

THANK YOU!

Keith Christensen

(Strawberry River Ride Leader)

Pat Wilson

(Our New Secretary!)

Diana VanUiert

(Vivian Park Ride Leader)

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Mountain Ridge

Back Country Horsemen of Utah

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



Ray's horses have had a long vacation this summer, while he recovers from surgeries. We'll be glad to have you back on the trail with us, Ray!

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting commenced at 1900 hours. Bob Baker officiating on behalf of President Ray Smith who is recovering from a double hernia repair.

Bob Baker reiterated the need for more people to step up and volunteer for various positions. (1) There is a need for a news letter editor on the state level. The goal is to have the state level newslet-

ter come out every other month. (2) A delegate is needed from Utah to go to the national committee. (3) Need more people to plan to be trail bosses in 2010. The same people are being heavily used to guide the club rides.

Fred Leslie motioned that there be different trail bosses for each ride. Beverly Heffernan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion followed. Bob Baker reported that Steve Johnson wants to guide the Puddle Valley ride again in 2010 with the idea that trail etiquette will be extensively covered. Keith Christensen will be leading the Strawberry Ride regardless of his injuries. The need for a trail ride coordinator was discussed. This proposal was tabled for further discussion.

Bob reported that Ray wants Mountain Ridge members to be thinking of trail rides and service projects for 2010. This is generally set for the year at the first club meeting in January.

Cindy is continuing to gather information on horse boots. She wants both articles and anecdotal evidence from members regarding their experience with horse boots.

The Hemangog Trail service project is on September 26. Bob Baker requested that you bring saws, pruners etc. and BRTR @ 0800 at Jacob's Ladder trail. This conflicts with National Public Lands Day so parking could be problematical. Come early.

The Bison Roundup on Antelope Island is Oct. 31 / Nov. 1. (For more information: <http://stateparks.utah.gov/roundup>)

The American Saddlebred Club is holding their Obstacle Ride on Saturday, Oct. 3rd.

Pat Wilson has volunteered to be the club secretary.

STRAWBERRY RIDE



WELCOME BACK!
KEITH AND
DOTTIE!



Aleta Hansen --
[Easy Boot Glove](#)

You must have them fitting properly



or they will be coming off all the time. (I've seen someone with this problem.) I have NO complaints about the boots and Easy Glove stands by their warranty. They were VERY easy to work with as, apparently, they are still developing the boot. I like them a LOT and they stay on very well.

They are hard to put on because they fit snugly – but I don't have a trouble with them coming off. ALSO ... when you first get the boots, use 'Locktight' on the screws so that they don't come undone. This was a small problem to begin with but I replaced the screw and washer that I lost and then used the locktight on all the screws and they have been fine ever since. I had one tear down the center "V" but Easy Boot replaced it with no problem at all. I didn't even have to send it back. I took a picture of the boot, and they mailed me another one. Also, apparently there is a 'thicker' boot available now. I ordered mine online from [KV Vet](#) and paid \$47.60 with not tax or shipping. Another nice thing about this boot is



B C H U B O O T S !

you don't have to worry about tightening the straps too tight. They are flexible but stay on. If the straps don't cross correctly (same type of Velcro strap arrangement as on a fly mask), they probably don't fit your horse's feet.

Editor's note: After Aleta sent me these pictures, we went on a tough, steep, very very rocky ride near Flaming Gorge. The boots did come off several times on that ride, probably because of stepping on the edges of rocks and 'flipping' them off. The nice thing was they were easy to put back on, and they never got lost, thanks to the Velcro ankle strap. Aleta also showed us the easier way to put on easy boots (see picture).

Denise Kirby –
[Epic Easy Boot \(Traditional\)](#)

The "Epic EasyBoot" saved my Saturday ride at Strawberry last summer when Tansy lost a front shoe on the ride the day before. She was just four weeks into her shoes, so it was a total surprise. If I have any complaint about the Easyboot, they are really hard to put on and take off, but I think I may just need a larger size. Once it was on, I pretty much forgot it was even there.

As I understand they need to fit snug, and these were measured to fit right after a trim so they only really fit until Tansy is 3-4 weeks into a trim and then they are all but impossible to get on. Im thinking having two different

sizes is the thing. I was concerned that dirt would get in and cause problems around her coronet and pastern but the attached gaiter seemed to work great for keeping dirt out. I love the Easyboot, but then that is the only brand of boot I have tried.

Ron Caldwell —
[Cavallo Simple Boots](#)

I really like these boots because they are easy and simple to put on and take off. They don't come off in any riding condition. I've used them at a lope and also walking down rocky and slick fast flowing streams. I have also purchased comfort pads which are easily inserted inside the boots.



Cindy Furse —
[Old Mac's](#), Cavallos' and Easy Boot Traditional

I've tried quite an array of boots and been happy with all of them. The Easy Boot Traditional don't stay on in the mud well for me but are great in the summer when trails are hard. The Cavallos sometimes rub the balls of Friday's hoof but are the easiest to put on. The Old Mac's are the most durable boot I've used and stay on very well. Side hills seem to be the challenge for most boots. I use gaiters with the Cavallos and Old Mac's to prevent chafing. They are hard to put on, so I cut them down the middle front and sewed on Velcro tabs to hold them closed.

MY FIRST PACK TRIP

BY STEPHANIE YEAGER

I still don't believe I really did it, my very first horse pack trip into the back country.

When I decided this would be my "new experience" with my horse for the year, I was a little nervous. I had no idea where to begin. How on earth could you pack enough stuff to "Survive" for 3 days and 2 nights in the wilderness? It was obvious I NEEDED HELP!

Well it turned out that wasn't a problem; there was a lot of help available starting with the horse packing demos at the Horse Expo in March. Paul Kern, Bruce Kartchner and Cindy Furse each presented their own different styles and techniques. I also found there were articles in the educational section of the BCHU website, reviewing the packing techniques demoed at the Expo. I printed off the article Cindy put together on packing a single horse using an English saddle. I was only taking one horse on my adventure, and I had a Western saddle, so of course that should be easier with all the ties, D-rings, etc., right? Wrong! My education continued on the trail, (more about that in a minute). Steve Johnson did a packing clinic during the July meeting, only a few people were in attendance, but the information he shared was priceless. The following week Steve led a day ride up Bench Creek, which was where the pack trip was going to be the following month. Of course I had to go on that, hoping it would lessen my "fear" if I got a taste of where we would be packing into. Then of course more valuable information came from my vet on the care for my horse in the back-country. As wonderful as Wind Dancer is, she is my problem child, health-wise. Now I had all of this

information and I was ready to get started. Yea!



The first thing I needed to do was get my horse ready for the adventure, because without her, there wouldn't be an adventure. I started hobbling her in the pasture, increasing the time she was hobbled and on pasture, as the trip got closer. This was so important because I wouldn't be able to haul feed into camp for her and I really didn't want to deal with any belly aches, because of a change in feed. Wind Dancer had only been high lined once before, with no problems, but we also practiced this several times so there would be no surprises. Oh, Surprise! First night out, I thought I hung my horse. Don't forget to use a swivel on either your lead rope or the high line. Thank goodness Steve Johnson had an extra one for me to use the following night. The next thing I needed to do was lose 50 pounds or practice riding with some extra weight, because poor Wind Dancer was going to have to haul me, my stuff and

her stuff into the mountains. I wasn't able to get those 50 pounds off, but I will keep working on it for our next pack trip. Getting your horse(s) familiar with new noises such as coming from either your pack or something someone else is doing, is a good idea, as is desensitizing them to having a rope under their tail! Grazing with cows, elk wandering in and around camp, riding through several herds of sheep being guarded by barking dogs and going over a million downed trees on the trails, were a few things I didn't prepare my horse for, but over all I think she handled all of these experiences quite well.

Cindy is a packing genius. As I mentioned earlier, I printed her article from the website and started collecting ALL of the necessary gear. I had a hard time figuring out how she got all that gear into the designated compartments because I certainly couldn't. I started juggling, weighing, rearranging, weighing... I would stand on the scale to get my weight, pick up the various packs, and step back on that darned scale again, and again. I already said I was trying to lose those 50 pounds, but this was like rubbing salt into a wound. I finally got all my side packs perfect. Later, on the trail, I found out that the packs on my horses back and rump also needed to be weighted just right. I'm sure at this point most of you have had the opportunity to see Cindy's pictures that she posts for us online each month. Note the one where I am still upright on my horse but my saddle is slipping to Wind Dancers right side. Thankfully I hit the ground with both feet and saved the saddle from ending up under

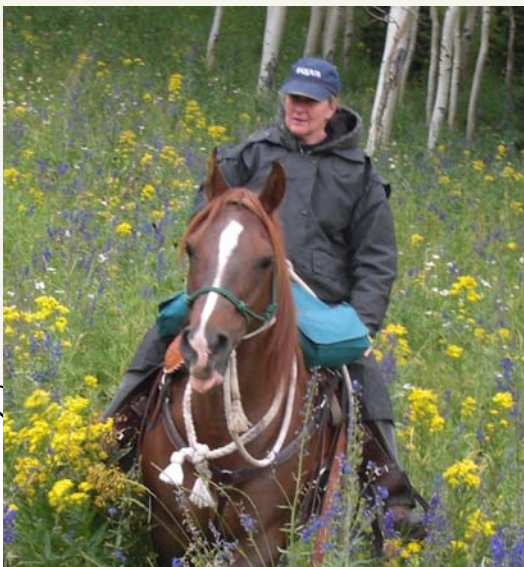
**MY FIRST
PACK TRIP
(CONTINUED)**

her belly. She just stood there while Cindy and I readjusted and tightened things. It took us a bit longer to get to camp, with my readjustments, all the deadfall on the trail and Keith Christensen's unfortunate accident. As you probably know, the horse he was riding exploded after the rope from his pack horse had gotten up under her tail, sending Keith flying. She wanted everybody to know this was unacceptable. Mission accomplished.

We eventually made it to camp, not the one we had been heading for, but one of equal beauty. I set up my camp and Cindy and I set up our high-lines so our horses could have a buddy close by during the night. As the evening progressed, I found out why I was unable to get all the gear she mentioned in her article into my saddle bag, which was identical to hers. It turns out that veteran horse packers, especially the ones with only one horse; learn to downsize most of their gear. (See the article in BCHU newsletter for September for some of the examples). Next time I pack into the backcountry I will be even more prepared, I am already in the process of downsizing.

Wind Dancer and I had the most wonderful time during our "new experience". We learned a lot thanks to Cindy, Steve and Keith, our riding buddies on this trip. I will never forget my first backcountry pack trip with Wind Dancer into the beautiful Utah Mountains. Everybody should have this experience at least once in their lifetime.

I would like to dedicate that last adventure and this article to my horse and best friend, Wind Dancer, who passed away September 1, 2009. May her packs always be light.



**JORDAN RIVER TRAIL
EMAIL / PHONE CALLS NEEDED**

My husband, Stan and I live in the Galena Hills subdivision in Draper. The equestrian trail system that is part of the Jordan River Trail is in our backyard. We are actively working with Draper Parks, the county and Federal land owners to expand the current trail system. My husband has already done some cutting and clearing on the county land to make a connecting trail from the canal road to the equestrian trail that runs right along the paved river trail. Draper Parks is going to help us with some brush hogging to further clear that trail.

The large tract of open land south of 12300 So. is federal property (with a UDOT easement right next to the road). Stan has met with a federal representative who has expressed a willingness to develop a soft trail from the 12300 end of the Galena canal road to the Jordan river trail. They are even considering putting in a berm and some trees to shield the trail from the road. There is also a possibility that Draper will allow us to use the undeveloped area at the north end of Galena park as a trail head with trailer parking.

We need 2 things: Lots of trail riders to express an interest in utilizing these trails;

Email Brad Jensen
brad.jensen@draper.ut.us
and Contact Salt Lake
County Parks and Recreation:
801-483-5473 to
express support.

We also need some volunteer labor to help with trail clearing, brush hogging, etc.

We could use all the help we can get to encourage further trail development for horses in this area. I think now is a good time to let the local governments know, loud and clear, that this section of Jordan river bottom is an ideal place to develop a close to the city, convenient and beautiful trail system. I think in the future we might be able to tap into the protected area where the recently discussed Indian ruins are found. There is also a large tract of open space around the new sewer development and while I have not yet explored the possibility of trails through that space, now is the time to discuss it in the hopes that the unused portion of open space there will remain unfenced and accessible to some simple equestrian trail development.

As you probably are aware, some of the Draper Council and UTA are considering some of this area for a high density urban style development. Now is the time to fight to keep horses in this area, to build and maintain an active and functional trail system and to say NO! to having horsemen pushed out of the Draper/Riverton area.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rebecca Macchione
rmacchione@gmail.com
801 662 0220.

MOUNTAIN RIDGE BCH 2009



Rinda, Queen, Cindy: Settlement Canyon — Ride it Again Oct. 10

Thursday, October 8: Monthly meeting, 7 pm, Cottonwood retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road [4752 South]

Saturday, October 10: Monthly ride, Settlement Canyon, Tooele, info [Bruce Kartchner](#) 571-0964

Bring a lunch and people water (water is available for horses). Be ready to ride at 10. Shoes or boots recommended. Ride is moderate, about 5 hours.

To get to the trailhead: From I-80, take exit 99 Stansbury. Go through Tooele. A few miles out of town turn Left at the Camp Wapiti sign. There is a yellow brick Masonic lodge with no windows on the corner. Go up the canyon past the lake, pay \$3 at the guard gate. Park & meet in the horse campground (where the corrals are) to your right about a mile or two past the pay station.

Most likely, a few of us will ride Friday and Saturday, and camp out in between. Contact Cindy cfurse@ece.utah.edu 581-9225 if

you want to catch the Friday ride.

Oct. 24 USU Clinic First Aid For Your Horse, South Jordan

Patricia A. Evans, EdD
Extension Equine Specialist
Utah State University
4815 Old Main Hill
Logan, Utah 84322-4815
435 797 2142
pat.evans@usu.edu

extension.usu.edu/equine/

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, Cottonwood retirement Center 1245 East Murray-Holladay Road [4752 South]

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

FULL MOON



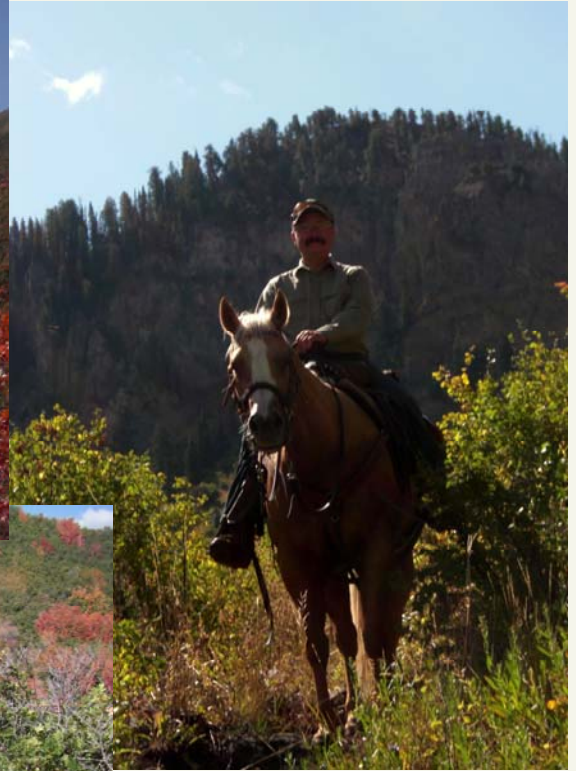
Oct. 4, 12:10 a.m. MDT -- Full Harvest Moon. Traditionally, this designation goes to the full moon that occurs closest to the Autumnal (fall) Equinox. The Harvest Moon usually comes in September, but sometimes it will fall in early October as is the case in 2009; the next time won't come until 2017. At the peak of the harvest, farmers can work into the night by the light of this moon. Usually the [full moon rises](#) an average of 50 minutes later each night, but for the few nights around the Harvest Moon, the moon seems to rise at nearly the same time each night: just 25 to 30 minutes later across the U.S., and only 10 to 20 minutes later for much of Canada and Europe. Corn, pumpkins, squash, beans, and wild rice -- the chief Indian staples -- are now ready for gathering.

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 BCH 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



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colostatemama@yahoo.com

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Featured Websites in this Edition:

Back Country Horsemen www.bchu.com
National Extension Service eXtension.org (select
[Horses](#))

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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Salt Lake City, Utah 84108**